

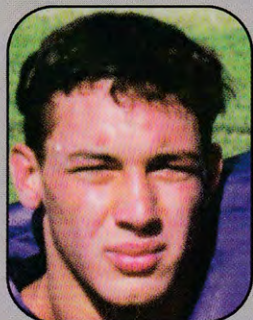
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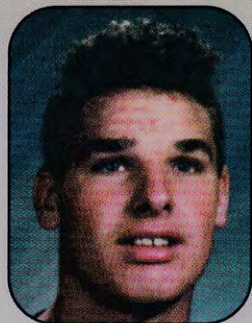
*Jason Fish
Blue Ridge*



*Josh Ries
Show Low*



*Brad Conway
Sinagua*



*Ron Dimbatt
St. Johns*



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Cave Creek Tackle Steven Johnson

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The 1992 Eagles compiled an 8-1-1 season record and were champions of the 4A Grand Canyon Region. An A.I.A. forfeiture prevented FHS from advancing to the state 4A playoffs for the 15th consecutive year.

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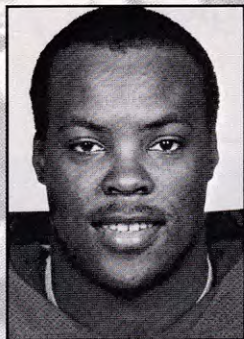
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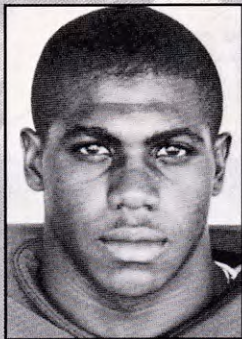
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Salute the WHIZZER WHITE AWARD WINNERS



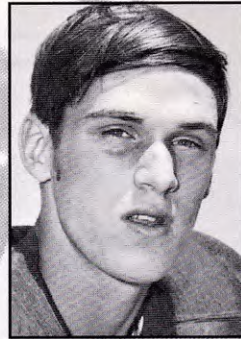
Stan Gill
Flagstaff



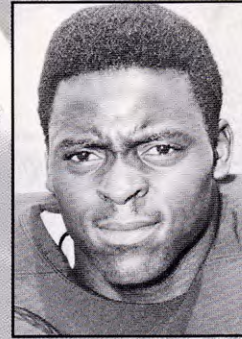
Reggie McGill
St. Mary's



Whizzer White
Mesa High



Joe Petroschus
Tucson



Andy Livingston
Mesa High

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL RUNNING BACK

1992Mike Mitchell, Phoenix Brophy Prep
1991Chris Hopkins, Tucson Salpointe
1990Mario Bates, Tucson Amphi
1989Brian Drew, Tempe McClintock
1988Michael Bates, Tucson Amphi
1987Kevin Galbreath, Phoenix Maryvale
1986Reggie McGill, Phoenix St. Mary's
1985Cleveland Colter, Jr., Tempe McClintock
1984David Winsley, Flagstaff (jr)
1983Paul Kasprzyk, Mesa Mountain View
1982Glenn Rogers, Agua Fria
1981Stan Gill, Flagstaff
1980Fred Sims, Tucson Sunnyside
1979Fred Sims, Tucson Sunnyside (jr)
1978Mike Cade, Eloy Santa Cruz
1977Alvin Moore, Coolidge
1976Willard Reeves, Flagstaff Coconino
1975Brian Felix, Phoenix Union
1974David Mitchell, Phoenix St. Mary's (jr)
1973Ronnie Bonner, Mesa Westwood (jr)
1972Jesse Parker, Tucson Rincon
1971Manuel Jones, Phoenix Union
1970Don Washington, Agua Fria (jr)
1969Benny Malone, Eloy Santa Cruz
1968Joe Petroschus, Tucson
1967Tim Smith, Phoenix St. Mary's
1966Bob Soza, Mesa Westwood
1965Art Malone, Eloy Santa Cruz
1964LeRoy Peoples, Marana

1963James Dugan, Flagstaff
1962Everett "Moose" Rollins, Scottsdale Arcadia
1961Andy Livingston, Mesa
1960Jim Sims, Tucson
1959Bob Olson, South Mountain
1958Lewis Albright, Scottsdale
1957Clay Freney, Globe
1956Warren Livingston, Mesa
1955George Greathouse, Phoenix Union
1954George Greathouse, Phoenix Union (jr)
1953Kenny Aycock, North Phoenix
1952Joel Favara, Tucson
1951Hadley Hicks, Bisbee
1950Don Beasley, Mesa
1949Danny Seivert, Phoenix St. Mary's
1948Gib Dawson, Douglas
1947Marvin Wahlin, Casa Grande
1946Whizzer White, Mesa
1945Whizzer White, Mesa (jr)
1944Lowell McDonald, Glendale
1943Fred Batiste, Tucson
1942Jim Nafiger, North Phoenix

WHIZZER WHITE, a 1946 high school All-American, was a three sport star at both Mesa High and Arizona State University, and later played in the National Football League with the Chicago Bears.

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(Arizona Daily Sun photo)



FLAGSTAFF FOOTBALL Magazine is published annually by Saguaro Sports Publications, 4115 East Catalina Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85018; Phone (602) 955-3303, or 967-7256. We salute the coaches and players at all levels in Flagstaff and northern Arizona. Special thanks to David Kukulski for his contributions to this publication. **Cover photo** of Steven Johnson by Gaines DuVall.

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Mike Fazioli
Sports Editor

A R I Z O N A

Daily Sun

Jim Carty
Darren Urban
Sports Reporters

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If you take the time to call, we'll take the time to get it in.

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**Salutes the
 Northern Arizona
 Players of the Year**

1992 .. Jimmy Sprotte, Blue Ridge, LB
 1991 .. Jim Richardson, Bradshaw Mtn., QB (jr)
 1990 .. Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, RB/DB
 1989 .. Mike Johnson, Parker, WR
 1988 .. Sam Austrino, Prescott, NG
 1987 .. Drayton Martin, Round Valley, DB
 1986 .. Tim Landers, Round Valley, T
 1985 .. David Winsley, Flagstaff, RB
 1984 .. David Winsley, Flagstaff, RB (jr)
 1983 .. Audie McKee, Coconino, QB
 1982 .. Gary McEwen, Snowflake, QB
 1981 .. Stan Gill, Flagstaff, RB
 1980 .. Greg Topp, Flagstaff, QB
 1979 .. Greg Turner, Flagstaff, RB
 1978 .. Billy Hatcher, Williams, RB
 1977 .. Billy Hatcher, Williams, RB (jr)
 1976 .. Willard Reeves, Coconino, RB
 1975 .. Danny Beckwith, Page, RB
 1974 .. Ray Smith, Coconino, RB
 1973 .. Dwain Smith, Winslow, RB
 1972 .. Carl Russell, McNary, QB
 1971 .. Mark Hamblin, Round Valley, RB
 1970 .. Dillard Nelson, Williams, RB
 1969 .. Tom Gillmore, Winslow, LB
 1968 .. Roosevelt Van, Winslow, B
 1967 .. Jerry Russell, McNary, HB

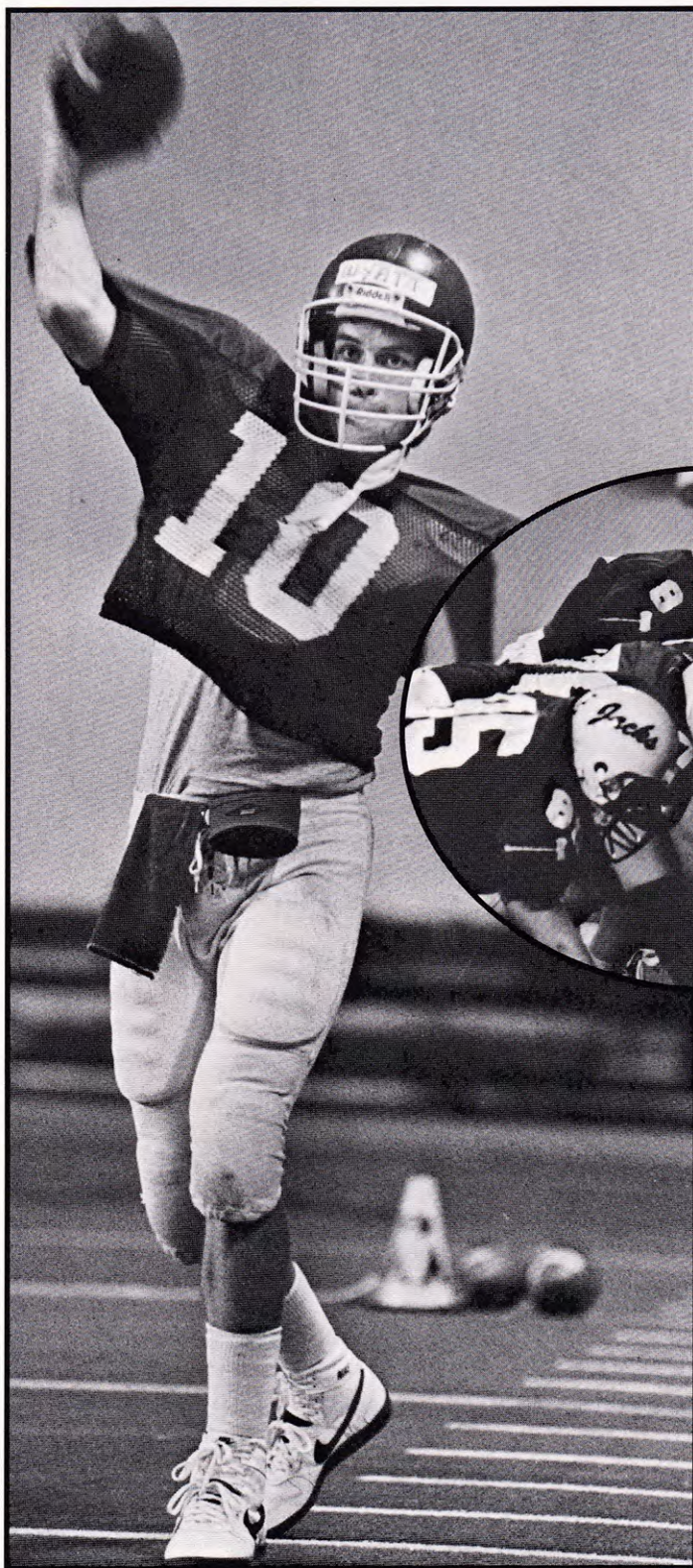


***Linebacker deluxe: Jimmy Sprotte of Blue Ridge.
 (White Mtn. Independent photo)***

1966 .. Bill White, Kingman, T
 1965 .. Alex Nish, Kingman, C
 1964 .. Mike Madeo, Winslow, FB
 1963 .. James Dugan, Flagstaff, B
 1962 .. James Dugan, Flagstaff, B (jr)
 1961 .. Jack Miller, Flagstaff, DB
 1960 .. Prestons Dragons, Flagstaff, E
 1959 .. Lance Penrod, Lakeside, QB
 1958 .. Joe Spear, Snowflake, HB
 1957 .. Lonnie Lund, Round Valley, HB
 1956 .. Bob Rothlisberger, St. Johns, E
 1955 .. Charlie Jones, Prescott, RB
 1954 .. Charlie Jones, Prescott, RB (jr)
 1953 .. Paul McCormick, Winslow, RB

"Arizona's Hottest Ticket!"

Lumberjack Preview **Quarterback Parade**



From Greg Wyatt to John Bonds and now Jeff Lewis (circle), Northern Arizona's Lumberjacks appear rich in college quarterback talent. (Arizona Daily Sun photos)

By Lonnie Collins

There's one thing coaches in the Big Sky can count on each year: Northern Arizona University is going to throw the ball. For whatever reason, the Flagstaff school comes up with outstanding college passers.

In the past decade alone, football in "The Dome" resembles more an Air Force strike than an axe-swinging Lumberjack.

It really started in 1986, with former Moon Valley High School product Greg Wyatt. In four record-breaking seasons, the former Phoenix prep star completed 926 of 1,512 passes for 10,697 yards and 70 touchdowns. All NAU records. After graduation, Wyatt had a brief tryout with the San Francisco 49ers.

Then along came Bonds. John Bonds. The highly touted QB originally signed with Arizona State, out of Phoenix St. Mary's High School. But he transferred to NAU in 1989 after a dispute with an ASU assistant coach.

He finished his shortened career with 450 of 892 passes for 6,304 yards, 38 touchdowns. His senior season was cut short by a broken thumb on his throwing hand. He then signed as a free agent with the Phoenix Cardinals.

Bonds' thumb injury opened the door for the Jacks' quarterback of the future, sophomore Jeff Lewis. The former Scottsdale Horizon signal caller started seven games. He hit 115 passes on 218 attempts, striking for 1,377 yards and four TDs. His completion percentage, like most QBs ahead of him, was high: 52%.

After losing five games by a combined 23 points, Coach Steve Axman and his staff will be out for a little revenge. They have a good collection of athletes to pull it off.

Len Raney, who was among the national leaders in kickoff returns, returns to the backfield as the lone starting back. He managed 364 yards on 86 carries. He averaged 29.2 yards on kickoff returns, with a longest of 90 yards.

Along the offensive front, Chris Muti (6-2, 280) will be moving over to center after starting the past two years at guard. Wide bodies Chris Parish (6-3, 262), Matt Elliott (6-5, 270), Eric Freund (6-5, 245) and Sonny Stidum (6-3, 285) also return. Junior college transfers Donald Jacobs, Mark Deniz and Victor Hernandez will battle for a starting position.

The receiving corps promises to be typical Lumberjack. After redshirting, Rod Alexander will be the go-to guy, and will be joined by starters Alex Calderwood and Kevin Sullivan, who combined for 736 yards on 55 catches.

"We are moving Chris Muti to center where we feel his brightness and leadership will help our line," says Axman. "He returns as one of the premier offensive linemen in the league. Our major goal for this year is to reestablish our passing game. It starts at the snap."

But championship seasons are built on defense. Axman and his staff realize this and last year was proof. The Lumberjacks' defense finished tied for first in the Big Sky, 34th in the nation. It was a great improvement over last

1993 NAU Schedule

Sept. 4.....@ Southern Utah
Sept. 11North Texas State
Sept. 18....Cal State Northridge
Sept. 25@ Idaho State
Oct. 2..... Montana State
Oct. 9@ Boise State
Oct. 16 Montana
Oct. 23@ Eastern Wash.
Oct. 30 Idaho
Nov. 6@ Weber State
Nov. 13Valparaiso

place finishes the two previous years.

"Defensively, there will not be many changes," adds the head coach. "We may want to be a little more balanced, add a little more blitz, a little more stunts. Just vary things a little bit. When you're number one in the conference and you have eight of eleven starters returning, you're not going to make many changes."

Senior linebacker Beau Smith heads the list of eight starters from last year's squad which finished 4-7 on the season, 2-5 in the conference. He led all 'Jack defenders with 130 tackles, earning AP honorable mention and first team Big Sky honors. Teammate Scott Strini also returns for his final season, after accumulating 114 tackles. These two are the first NAU linebackers to record more than 100 tackles since Darrell Jordan turned the trick in 1989.

Veterans Chuck Walton, Chris West, Greg Semas, Doug Dooley and Donald Hurston return along the defensive line. Last year they recorded 30 QB sacks, 45 tackles for losses and 260 yards, 13 forced fumbles and eight fumble recoveries.

In the secondary, Axman returns Jeff Bergman, Todd McMillon, Dereck Williams, Alex Marcelin and Steve Douglass. Redshirt soph Rayna Stewart will move over to outside linebacker after spending last fall as a free safety.

In senior Terry Belden, NAU returns one of the best two-way kickers in the nation. He averaged 44.3 yards punting, landing first team all-conference honors as a punter, second team as a place kicker. The Glendale products longest punt from scrimmage was 81 yards. He made 15 field goals, with a longest of 53 yards.

Best of the Lumberjacks

QB.....	Jeff Lewis	6-3, 195, So.
RB.....	Len Raney	5-10, 183, Jr.
WR.....	Kevin Sullivan	6-1, 208, Sr.
WR.....	Rod Alexander	6-0, 185, Jr.
OG.....	Chris Muti	6-2, 280, Sr.
DE.....	Chuck Walton.....	6-2, 250, Sr.
DL.....	Greg Semas	6-4, 260, Sr.
LB.....	Jeff Bergman	6-0, 195, Jr.
LB.....	Beau Smith.....	6-2, 220, Sr.
LB.....	Scott Strini.....	6-2, 218, Sr.
K.....	Terry Belden	5-10, 185, Sr.

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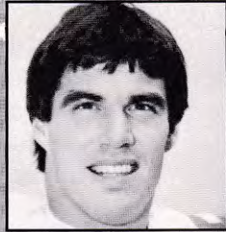
Salute the

LARRY GORDON AWARD WINNER

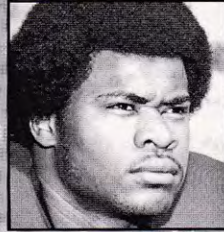
HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL LINEBACKERS!



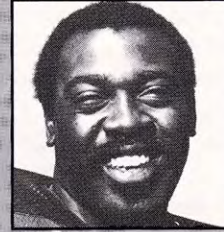
Riki Gray
Amphi



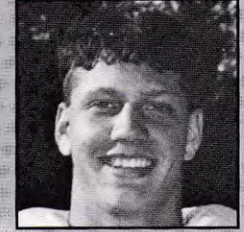
Bob Breunig
Alhambra



Larry Gordon
Phoenix Union



Fred Carr
Phoenix Union



Jim Sprotte
Blue Ridge

1992 .. Jim Sprotte, Lakeside Blue Ridge
1991 .. Jon McGee, Tucson Sahuaro
1990 .. Aaron Franklin, Peoria
1989 .. Daniel Taplin, Tempe
1988 .. Luke Davis, Mesa Dobson
1987 .. Jeramiah Clark, Mesa
1986 .. Odel Stewart, Sierra Vista Buena
1985 .. Bob Davis, Mesa Mountain View
1984 .. Charles Matthews, Eloy Santa Cruz
1983 .. Tim Hicks, Sunnyslope
1982 .. Randall McDaniel, Agua Fria
1981 .. Darin Tupper, Phoenix Trevor Browne
1980 .. Jimmy Williams, Tempe
1979 .. Todd Shell, Mesa Mountain View
1978 .. Kurt Whiteman, Scottsdale
1977 .. Riki Gray, Tucson Amphitheater
1976 .. Riki Gray, Tucson Amphitheater (jr)
1975 .. Alan Edwards, Morenci
1974 .. Roark Shirley, Tempe Marcos de Niza
1973 .. Richard Rucker, Canyon del Oro
1972 .. Tim Peterson, Ajo
1971 .. Larry Gordon, Phoenix Union
1970 .. Bob Breunig, Phoenix Alhambra
1969 .. Bill Crowe, Tempe McClintock (jr)
1968 .. Larry Delbridge, Coolidge
1967 .. Jeff Quinn, Westwood

1966 .. Jay Ray Rokey, Westwood
1965 .. Bill Owsley, North
1964 .. Ron Hendrix, Camelback
1963 .. Dana Woudenberg, Arcadia
1962 .. Fred Carr, Phoenix Union (jr)

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1993 Northern Arizona FRIDAY NIGHT HEROES



*Sinagua back Brad Conway averaged 5.5 yards per carry.
(Arizona Daily Sun photo)*

*This is **Flagstaff Football** Magazine's checklist of outstanding varsity players for the upcoming 1993 high school football season:*

QB ... Jason Edwards, Kingman, 6-1, 180
RB ... Steve Shipp, Prescott, 5-11, 176
RB ... Brad Conway, Sinagua, 6-0, 175
WR ... Mark Young, Coconino, 6-2, 180
WR ... Josh Ries, Show Low, 6-1, 165
WR ... Jared Howard, Camp Verde, 5-10, 165 (jr.)
WR ... Chris Cliburn, Page, 6-0, 185
WR .. Peter Merrill, Blue Ridge, 6-1, 160 (jr)
TE Chad Auker, Camp Verde, 6-1, 185
OC Ron Dimbatt, St. Johns, 6-0, 230
OT Jon Gunzel, Payson, 6-4, 225 (jr)
OT Steven Johnson, Cave Creek, 6-2, 240
OT Terry Staggs, Mohave, 6-4, 275
OT Granthum Stevens, Parker, 6-4, 295
DL Jason Fish, Blue Ridge, 6-3, 215
LB Nick Petrucci, Flagstaff, 6-3, 185
LB Brett Hall, Show Low, 6-2, 185
LB Brian Mills, Wickenburg, 5-10, 185
DB Scott Drescher, Wickenburg, 5-8, 170
PK Josh Gastellum, Kingman, 5-7, 140
P Joey Mongini, Mingus Union, 6-2, 175



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Kerry Hurst/Owner

1993 Northern Arizona Checklist of Players

quarterbacks

Chris Butler, Show Low, 6-1, 165
Don Cummings, Page, 6-2, 180
Jason Curley, Ganado, 5-11, 170 (jr)
*Jeff Dent, Williams, 6-1, 195 (jr)
Brodie Douglas, Mohave, 5-11, 165
Jason Edwards, Kingman, 6-1, 180
*Paul Hines, Mayer, 6-0, 175 (jr)
Russ Jones, Blue Ridge, 6-3, 185 (jr)
Adam Kucera, Lake Havasu, 5-10, 180
Dru Martinson, Fountain Hills, 6-2, 175 (jr)
Joey Mongini, Mingus Union, 6-2, 175
David Moran, Brad. Mtn., 6-0, 170 (so)
Jim Oestmann, Payson, 5-11, 165
Boonie Smith, Winslow, 5-11, 215
J.R. Stratton, Snowflake, 6-2, 195

running backs

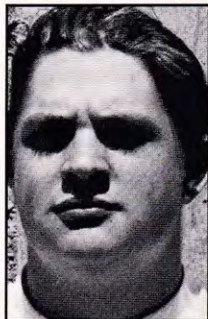
D.L. Brewer, Snowflake, 5-10, 175
Joey Capps, Mohave, 5-9, 170
Brad Conway, Sinagua, 6-0, 175
Chris Mansfield, Hopi, 5-6, 150
Danny McDowell, Holbrook, 5-9, 165
Heath Melton, Mingus Union, 5-9, 175 (jr)
Heath Moore, Mingus Union, 5-11, 165
Chris Nicks, Flagstaff, 5-11, 180
Ryan Patterson, St. Johns, 6-2, 200
Frank Pena, St. Johns, 6-0, 200
Steve Shipp, Prescott, 5-11, 176
Josh Smith, River Valley, 5-11, 165
Logan Sparks, Cave Creek, 5-9, 155
Josh Stewart, Mohave, 6-0, 205

receivers

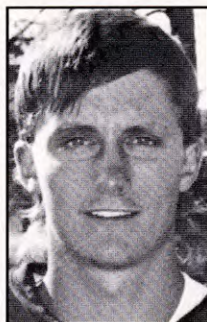
Chat Auken, Camp Verde, 6-1, 185
Danny Caputo, Sinagua, 5-10, 170
Chris Cilburn, Page, 6-0, 185
Jared Howard, Camp Verde, 5-10, 165
Peter Merrill, Blue Ridge, 6-1, 160 (jr)



Scott Drescher
Wickenburg



Jeremy Bewley
Sinagua



Jim Oestmann
Payson



Greg Sampson
Sinagua

Dustin Nelson, Parker, 5-10, 180
*Damon Porter, Mogollon, 5-10, 150
Josh Ries, Show Low, 6-1, 165
Matt, Sopeland, Payson, 6-0, 175
Mark Young, Coconino, 6-2, 180

centers

Doug Crawford, Prescott, 5-11, 205
Ron Dimbatt, St. Johns, 6-0, 230
James Rogers, Round Valley, 6-0, 190

linemen

Mike Amdahl, Fountain Hills, 6-2, 215 (jr)
Pat Beck, Mohave, 6-1, 235
*Marshall Clark, Salome, 5-10, 204 (jr)
Scott Compson, Brad. Mtn., 6-2, 220 (jr)
Sean Demsey, Brad. Mtn., 5-10, 200
Jason Fish, Blue Ridge, 6-3, 215
Dan Green, Mingus Union, 5-10, 210
Jon Gunzel, Payson, 6-4, 225 (jr)
Harriston Honie, Many Farms, 6-2, 220
Steven Johnson, Cave Creek, 6-2, 240
Jabakra Nichols, Flagstaff, 5-10, 180 (jr)
Scott Pieters, Sinagua, 6-0, 215
Daniel Rhoton, Flagstaff, 6-3, 185
Greg Sampson, Sinagua, 5-10, 210
Terry Staggs, Mohave, 6-4, 275
Granthum Stevens, Parker, 6-4, 295
B.S. Reeves, Show Low, 6-0, 275
Brandon Talaumptewa, Hopi, 5-10, 180
Chet Teeters, Camp Verde, 6-4, 220
Scott Trahan, Kingman, 6-4, 220
Willie Weatherby, Brad. Mtn., 6-2, 235 (jr)
Bruce Ybanez, Tuba City, 5-9, 210
*Paco Zabaca, Williams, 5-9, 210

deep backs

Matt Baldanado, Holbrook, 5-9, 155
Josh Bradford, Flagstaff, 5-10, 170 (so)

Scott Drescher, Wickenburg, 5-10, 175
Joey Hage, Cave Creek, 5-10, 160
Phil Hess, Blue Ridge, 6-1, 185
Levi Howard, St. Johns, 5-11, 165
Jason Illian, Lake Havasu, 6-4, 195
Tavis Johns, Coconino, 5-8, 165
Ernie Tafoya, River Valley, 6-3, 170

linebackers

*Darren Beafeaux, Mogollon, 5-10, 170
Jeremy Bewley, Sinagua, 5-8, 198
Jason Branch, Coconino, 5-8, 190
Rick Erickson, Lake Havasu, 5-11, 200
Brett Hall, Show Low, 6-2, 185
*Clay Kelton, Mayer, 5-10, 190 (jr)
Brian Mills, Wickenburg, 5-11, 185
Garrett Naegle, St. Johns, 6-1, 215
Nick Petrucci, Flagstaff, 6-3, 185
Brock Robertson, Payson, 5-8, 175
Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 5-11, 190
Jon Sexton, Mingus Union, 5-10, 205
Devin Verhulst, Cave Creek, 5-11, 170
Dude Ward, Holbrook, 6-1, 190
Cory Williams, Kingman, 5-11, 190

kickers

Quinn Ashton, St. Johns, 5-11, 170
Josh Gastellum, Kingman, 5-7, 140
Mike Howe, Payson, 6-0, 215
Joey Mongini, Mingus Union, 6-2, 175

* 8-man football

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Sept. 17 at Scottsdale Coronado
Sept. 24 vs Prescott (Dome)
Oct. 1 vs Page (Coconino HS)

Oct. 8 at Bullhead City Mohave
Oct. 15 vs Coconino (Dome)
Oct. 22 vs Kingman (Dome)
Oct. 29 vs Flagstaff (Dome)
Nov. 5 at Cottonwood Mingus

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Wickenburg back Scott Drescher (32) intercepted nine passes last year, and here's one, run back against Camp Verde. (Wickenburg Sun photo by Kevin Cole)

Kingman's Day in the Sun?

4A GRAND CANYON KINGMAN

If good things come to those who wait, then 1993 just might be the Year of the Bulldog - as in Kingman Bulldogs.

Close but no cigar. Since Ray Smith showed up in 1984, the 'Dogs have reached the playoffs three times and been on the bubble four. Last year's 5-5 team - a competitive club - lost to Flagstaff High, the region's best team, 21-17.

"We improved each week," says Smith, 43-46-3 at the school. "We were a young team which made a lot of mistakes. We led the league in penalties, something we have to cut in half.

"But we should be much improved, with a veteran offensive line and a super quarterback," adds the head coach, who returns 25 varsity lettermen. "Our defense should be very

physical, with an excellent kicker. It's the best balance on both sides we've had here."

The quarterback is Jason Edwards, a 6-1, 180-pound senior. Last fall, running Kingman's wing-T offense, Edwards threw for 909 yards, completing 57% of his passes. He runs 40 yards in 4.8 seconds, and has passed for 1,650 yards in two seasons.

The kicker is senior Josh Gastellum (5-7, 140), who booted nine field goals, with a longest of 41 yards. He missed only two PATs.

The 'Dogs played only four seniors in '92, so most of the starters are game-tested, especially two-way lineman Scott Trahan (6-4, 220) and linebacker Cory Williams (5-11, 190), who doubles at fullback. He runs a 4.9. Senior Jessie Roy (5-11, 175) can catch passes and cover receivers.

The junior class can carry its share of the load, thanks to starters like

TE/DE Alex Sutton (6-0, 185) and FB/CB Jeff Wood (5-9, 170). Last year's sophomore squad finished 5-3. That class will give Kingman depth.

FLAGSTAFF

Some things never change. Like winning football teams at Flagstaff High. The Eagles, which played their first game 70 years ago, have built a reputation around speed and good athletes. Year-after-year, no school in northern Arizona can match Flag's speed at the skill positions. This year is no different.

"Last year's team was a group of overachievers," says head coach John Padilla, whose club went 8-1-1 but was forced out of the playoffs by forfeits. "We won the conference because they worked well as a team."

This fall, Flag fans will see what life without Caesar Polk is like. The talent-

ALL-TIME ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL VICTORIES

Wins	School	Years
517	Mesa	1920-92
471	Tucson	1912-92
429	Safford	1925-92
395	Winslow	1915-92
394	Round Valley	1921-92
386	Douglas	1906-92
385	Gilbert	1923-92
361	Flagstaff	1923-92
355	Miami	1923-92
353	Phoenix Union	1913-81
348	Snowflake	1929-92
331	Tempe	1924-92
304	Globe	1924-92

ed two-year all-state tailback, one of the best athletes in the state, has used up his eligibility.

"We have some good senior leadership," adds Padilla, 15-3-3 in two years on The Hill. "We will be young, but we have some great talent coming up from our undefeated JV team."

Top Eagle this year appears to be linebacker/tackle Nick Petrucci (6-3, 185), a sure-bet all-stater if he stays healthy. With 4.9 speed, he plays 48 minutes, and should be Flag's team leader. His forte is defense.

Quickness shows up in the sophomore class, where two-way back Josh Bradford (5-10, 170), with 4.6 speed, might be the Eagles next great back. Watch for him to start in the secondary when not tooting the ball. Sophomore receiver Mike Sciacca (6-0, 160) is also a burner.

Last year, when Polk wasn't sprinting for some of his 3,370 career yards (see record section), teammate Chris Nicks (5-11, 150) was averaging 6.8 yards per carry. The speedy senior runs a 4.7 and starts in the secondary.

Even the Eagles' defensive line is quick. End Daniel Rhoton (6-3, 185), an all-conference selection, might be switched to QB. He can also play TE. Another DE, junior Jabahra Nichols (5-10, 180), plays fullback.

Seniors dot the line, including Mickey Patch (6-0, 180), Brandon Dixon (5-11, 195) and Hayden Cole (6-3, 195), to name a few. But a talented junior class will contribute, starting with David Linderholm (5-11, 190), Jason Alexander (6-2, 235), Heath Ironsides (6-4, 220), David Turner (6-3,

170) and Scott Ross (6-3, 185). John Fry, Franco McCain, Marcus Neal and Eric Evans are two-way backs. Vicente Alonzo is the team's kicker.

MINGUS UNION

For the fourth time in six years, Bill Rudolph's squad got a piece of the Grand Canyon Region championship. The Marauders went 6-4-1 and finished a lot higher in the polls than most

ing the majority of the offense, Mingus fans might see a lot of scoring. But the Marauders have key gaps to fill on defense, including the loss of graduated all-stater Hamilton Mee.

Quarterback Joey Mongini (6-2, 175) is also the team's punter, so the team is set at two key positions. He can average 40 yards per kick. The "Heath Boys" join Mongini in the backfield - FB Heath Melton (5-9, 175), who doubles at LB, and HB Heath Moore (5-11, 165), with 4.8 speed the quickest of the three. Melton is a junior.

Joining Melton at linebacker are seniors Jon Sexton (5-10, 205), Ty Glazar (5-10, 175) and Andy Dickey (5-10, 195), with Sexton all-region material. Junior Dan Green (5-10, 210) is a two-way lineman; senior Nathan Welly (6-1, 185) a promising wingback.

MOHAVE

The Thunderbirds, 3-7 last year, lost three games after leading at halftime. Coach Terry King's crew was competitive in every game but Agua Fria, a 55-6 rout. They lost to Coconino 12-9, Peoria 17-14, Kingman 8-7, etc. They switch from the 4A West Region to the Grand Canyon. Since the JV unit finished 0-8, the senior class must lead the way. It has the potential.

"We are excited about this year," says King. "We have more depth and move to a new region."

Mohave returns several quality linemen, starting with two-way tackle Terry Staggs (6-4, 275), an all-state candidate. Guards Pat Beck (6-1, 235), David Farnham (6-0, 235), Ricky Vance (6-1, 265) and Cecil Jenkins (6-1, 235) form a solid defensive wall. All are seniors.

Fullback Josh Stewart (6-0, 205) and TB Joey Capps (5-9, 170) are quality running backs. Brodie Douglas (5-11, 165) has experience at quarterback. "He can play," says his coach.

Heath Prestridge (6-0, 190), Jason Hadley (5-9, 170) and Justin Jensen, a junior, (5-11, 185) form a sound linebacking corps. Cameron Miller (5-11, 165) is a good defensive back.

Although the T'birds' JV unit didn't win a game, only 14 players suited up. All 14 played. These kids are tough. Still, Mohave's strength will be the line. Depth is a weakness. Last year, injuries

1993 Northern Arizona Prep Poll

CLASS 4A

1. Kingman Bulldogs
2. Flagstaff Eagles
3. Mingus Union Marauders
4. Mohave Thunderbirds
5. Flagstaff Sinagua Mustangs
6. Prescott Badgers
7. Flagstaff Coconino Panthers
8. Lake Havasu Knights

CLASS 3A

1. Blue Ridge Yellowjackets
2. Payson Longhorns
3. Show Low Cougars
4. Snowflake Lobos
5. Bradshaw Mountain Bears
6. Round Valley Elks
7. Parker Broncos
8. Holbrook Roadrunners

CLASS 2A

1. Wickenburg Wranglers
2. St. Johns Redskins
3. Camp Verde Cowboys
4. Chino Valley Cougars
5. Many Farms Lobos

CLASS 1A (8-Man)

1. Williams Vikings
2. Mayer Wildcats
3. Mogollon Mustangs
4. Fredonia Lynx
5. Orme Warriors

thought they would.

"We had an average team with average athletes play real well together," says Rudolph, who has taken five clubs to the playoffs since 1987. "They developed into a good team."

With 20 lettermen returning, includ-

Saluting Snowflake's Lobos

The 1992 Class 3A

Arizona State Champion!



The proud 1992 Lobos won the school's second consecutive state title with a convincing 33-8 win over Miami!

Scored school
record 451 points
in 13 games!

Brett Brewer, Murlin
Larson, Will Wipple
and Dustin Harris
First team all-state!

Have now
produced 57 first
team all-state
players since 1955!

Established school
record by rushing
for 3,602 yards!

Coach Jim Beall
Arizona High School
Coach of the Year!

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hurt them down the stretch. Also, the school lost athletes to the area's new school, River Valley. But players like Staggs, Stewart, Capps, Douglas and Beck played every down. These are leaders to build on.

SINAGUA

In the school's second year of varsity play, Sinagua produced a winning season and made the playoffs. Coach Ed Campos young club finished 6-5; 2-7-1 in 1991. Only three seniors played offense and defense. So, with 24 letter-men back, the experience factor is a key.

"We expect to be very competitive," warns Campos. "For the first time our lineup will be dominated by senior players."

Yes, the Mustangs should be well balanced, both offensively and defensively. Tailback Brad Conway (6-0, 175) averaged 5.5 yards per carry, rushing for 412 yards on just 75 carries. Stocky linebacker Jeremy Bewley (5-8, 198) was the team's defensive leader. In fact, four of Sinagua's five defensive stars return, including Bewley, Conway (at LB), lineman Wade Woodruff and DB Jay Campos, who picked off four passes. Campos is also the club's QB.

Big Greg Sampson (5-10, 210) is a strong, two-way tackle. End Seth Roan (6-0, 165) is a two-way starter. Danny Caputo (5-10, 170) joins Campos, Conway and Bewley in the backfield. He also starts in the secondary. Joey Salamone and Lance Awbrey are promising juniors.

COCONINO

Since the Panthers were knocked for a loop by the opening of nearby Sinagua High, Coach George Moate's forces have gradually fought their way back into the hunt. In 1991, CHS went 2-8. Last fall they finished 8-3.

"We may be less experienced this year, but still have a good, hard working group," says Moate. "We'll be competitive."

The Panthers' offense starts with all-state WR Mark Young (6-2, 180), a speedy (4.6) receiver who averaged a school record 28 yards per catch. Ten catches went for touchdowns. Running

back Tavis Johns (5-8, 165) averaged 5.5 yards per carry. Linebacker Jason Branch (5-8, 190) was in on 103 tackles. He also plays fullback, lining up behind QB Yancy Ayres (6-1, 180), an experienced senior with 4.7 speed.

With LB Chris Gonzales (6-1, 185), DT Bernard Francisco (5-11, 205), and defensive ends Otis Ingram (6-2, 190) and Gabe Schmadel (5-8, 180) protecting the flanks, Coconino's defense looks quick and tough.

"It will be a very competitive race among the entire conference," insists Moate.

PAGE

"Our lack of ability to put together four quarters of good football hurt us," claims Greg Asbury at Page. The result was a 4-6 campaign. But the Sand Devils have a number of good, young players who, if they develop, will make PHS competitive. "The kids are working hard in the weight room and will be much stronger," adds the head coach.

Top Devil appears to be WR Chris Cliburn (6-0, 185), a senior who caught 33 passes for 657 yards, six TDs. He has 4.7 speed. Quarterback Don Cummings (6-2, 180) does the throwing. Like Cliburn, he doubles in the secondary, giving Page quality athletes at two key positions.

Big Jesse Forbes (6-1, 200) is a good target at TE. Speedy Tom Worten (5-10, 165) joins the receiving corps. Center Rob Bunch (5-10, 200) and RB Ryan Tkalecic (6-0, 170) help make the Devils' wing-T go.

But if Page is to improve in the league standings, the defense must step forward. Senior Andrew Monroe (6-0, 190), junior Dale Tadytin (6-0, 275) and sophomore Pat Tadytin (6-1, 300) form a young, but beefy defensive front. Senior Ryan Warner (6-0, 180) and junior Jason Hightower (5-10, 190) are linebackers, and quick ones at that. With 4.6 speed, young Hightower doubles at tailback, and could be a real threat for two years.

CHINLE

Last year, Chinle advanced to the first round of the 3A playoffs. With a move up to Class 4A, the Wildcats will

find the road rockier. Lots of young players cracked the varsity lineup last year, including sophomores Melville Calagaca and Darren Yazzie. Altogether, Marty Conrad had 14 underclassmen (almost half the roster) in gear each night.

4A WEST VALLEY

LAKE HAVASU

The Knights, which lost over 20 consecutive games recently, bounced back to finish 7-4 in 1991 (under Lee Barnes) and 5-5 last fall, under Bill Kucera.

"It took half the season to learn the new system, after that we won four of our last five games," says Kucera of his first year at the helm. "I was very encouraged by the play of our young players. We are excited about being in a new conference."

If all good offenses start at QB, Lake Havasu is set. Senior Adam Kucera (5-10, 180) has a good arm, speed (4.8) and savvy to do the job. His favorite target, senior Jason Illian (6-4, 195), roams the secondary as well. So does junior Brandon Rooney (5-9, 155). Senior Darick Brimhall (6-2, 175) mirrors Illian, playing WR/DB.

Rick Erickson (5-11, 200) might be one of the best linebackers in the region. With 4.7 speed, he plays inside, but covers the flanks like an OLB.

4A NORTH VALLEY

PRESCOTT

With only seven seniors on the roster, it was a long season in Badgerland. The results: 2-7-1. But with 26 returning letter winners - the most in the new North Valley Region - Bill Gahn's crew might be in the title hunt.

The Badgers have several key figures to rebuild with, starting with center Doug Crawford (5-11, 205), also the team's middle linebacker. Halfback Steve Shipp (5-11, 176) rushed for 1,103 yards in Gahn's wing-T offense. Guard Joe Dewess (5-10, 195) and WR Greg Gologosh (6-3, 190) started.

Gologosh, who doubles at safety, joins Crawford and LB Chris Gilliam (6-3, 225) to give the Badgers a jump start at rebuilding a once solid

St. Johns Redskins!

1992 Class 2A

Arizona State Champions!



Coach Mike Morgan's Redskins compiled a 12-1 record and defeated Morenci 20-8 in the state 2A title game!

Lineman Brian Bell
First-Team
All-Arizona Pick!

Scored 370 Points
vs.
Opponents' 79!

Led Arizona 2A
Schools in both
Offense & Defense!

Halfback Spencer
Ellsworth 3,220
Career Rushing Yds.

Coach Mike
Morgan 39-8 (.829)
at SJHS!

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defense. Over one dozen juniors from a solid 6-2 junior varsity unit add depth.

3A EAST REGION

BLUE RIDGE

You can't get much better. On or off the field. On the field, Blue Ridge rolled through a 10-1 campaign. Off the field, Coach Paul Moro has built one of the premier programs in Arizona prep football.

"It was a great year," says Moro, whose 71-23 record since 1985 gives him a .755 winning percentage. "We lost to a good Safford team (in the quarterfinals) who had a great night."

Surprisingly, Moro and his staff see the line as a weakness, or question mark. "But our skill positions will be the best in the school's history," warns the head coach. "It should be fun."

Not for opposing teams. Even with MVP Jimmy Sprotte, winner of the Larry Gordon Award as the state's best linebacker, bound for Arizona, Blue Ridge is loaded.

Defensive end Jason Fish (6-3, 215) is the latest Yellowjacket blue-chipper. With 4.7 speed, 330 pound bench press strength, this 'Jacket is an outstanding pass rusher. Almost impossible to stop with one blocker, Fish also starts at TE, and could help Moro's aerial crew form the best passing attack in the school's history.

Two-way back Phil Hess (6-1, 185), with 4.6 speed, is best as a corner-back. Receiver Peter Merrill (6-1, 160), only a junior, can beat Hess in a sprint and possesses great hands and leaping ability. Young Scooter Sprotte (5-11, 190) is not as big as his brother, but almost as gifted. A starter at LB, he was in on 100 tackles as a sophomore. Also a running back (with 4.6 speed), he benches 320 pounds, cleans 290 and squats 410. Junior Russ Jones (6-3, 185) played behind all-state QB Chris Schutte last year, but could set all kinds of school records the next two years.

Another junior, two-way guard Victor Hershberger (6-2, 230), is a solid performer. Seniors Todd Fernaw (6-2, 215), Richard Bennett (6-3, 240) and Shawn Anderson (6-1, 205) add support. Junior Ray Vozza and senior Justin Neher catch passes and play in

the secondary. Frank Girardi is the Jackets' strong safety.

PAYSON

Over in Payson, second-year coach Dan Dunn might have the surprise team of the league. Well, not if preseason polls have any clout.

The Longhorns, 4-5 last fall, return 20 lettermen - most in the league - and five earned all-league honors. Although senior leadership is important, a junior could get all the attention, OT/LB Jon Gunzel (6-4, 225), the state 3A discus champ as a sophomore (just like his father, Steve, who threw 186-2 at Tucson Palo Verde in 1969).

"We were really young last year, starting nine underclassmen on offense, eight on defense," says Dunn, who won three state championships at Gilbert, and later coached at Mesa CC. "We should be better."

Quarterback Jim Oestmann (5-11, 165) is the key. A good all-round athlete he doubles as the team's safety. Another good athlete, WR Matt Sopeland (6-0, 175) runs 40 yards in 4.8 seconds and has a 37-inch vertical jump. Senior Brock Robertson (5-8, 175), a good wrestler, might start at FB, but earned all-league honors at LB. Junior Mike Howe (6-0, 215) was an all-league punter (40.0), but also plays DE.

If Payson is to compete for the league crown, Dunn's line must improve, and the Longhorns look headed in the right direction. Seniors Chris Harold (6-0, 210), Ty Parker (6-0, 205), Jeremy Ricke (6-3, 230) and Richie Stearne (6-0, 170), a TE/DE, give the 'Horns a strong forward wall. Juniors Gunzel and Brent Caulkins (6-1, 200) add size and depth.

Little Josh Koon (5-9, 175) doubles at RB/LB. Junior Byron Quinlan (5-10, 165) plays RB/CB. In fact, with a limited number of turnouts recently, 90% of Payson's starting lineup could go both ways. Still, the 'Horns could cause a lot of trouble in '93.

SHOW LOW

The Cougars lost 21 seniors to graduation, but good, young talent from a junior class is reason for optimism. "We didn't go as far as we thought we

could," says Gary Mauldin, whose club lost a 20-19 heartbreaker to Miami in the quarterfinals. One big win was a 19-14 triumph at Snowflake, the Cougars first ever against their rivals on the road.

Speed at the skill positions and a tough, young line are strong points. All-state WR Josh Ries (6-1, 165) is back. With 4.6 speed, he caught 22 passes for 517 yards and five scores. All-conference LB Brett Hall (6-2, 185), also with 4.6 speed, had 69 tackles, 20 solos. Senior Chris Butler (6-1, 165) is a key figure at QB. Junior tackle B. J. Reeves (6-0, 275) assisted in 64 tackles, eight solo.

All the Cougars receivers can play in the secondary, including Eric Maxwell, Marty Williams, Jason Wilson and Ries. All have 4.8 speed or better. Two-way tackle Don Jackson joins Reeves in the trenches.

Shoe Low, under Mauldin, has won seven or more games five years in a row. The Cougars best season was 1989, when Mauldin's club finished 9-4, best in the school's history. Two losses were to Blue Ridge, 37-27 in the 3A finals, and to Animas, N.M., 34-26, which had won 62 games in a row.

SNOWFLAKE

After three early setbacks, 'Flake never lost sight of its goal: A sixth state championship since 1982. But since its 33-8 rout of Miami in the 3A finals, Snowflake has lost more than 23 lettermen from that club. Head coach Jim Beall left to take a coaching job in Oklahoma.

"It was just time for a change," said Beall, whose last three teams went 10-2, 11-1-1, 10-3. "I went to college back there. It's great football country."

So is Snowflake. Rival coaches need not beat the victory drums. The Lobos will always be tough.

One champion who hasn't left yet is quarterback J.R. Stratton (6-2, 195), who completed 46 of 87 passes for 787 yards, eight TD passes and seven interceptions. Rushing the ball from Snowflake's option offense, Stratton gained 419 net yards on 74 carries. He lost 87 yards on sacks.

Backup halfback D.L. Brewer (5-10, 175) managed 183 yards on 32 carries. As a linebacker he intercepted three

The 200 Win Club

- 227...Edgar "Mutt" Ford,
Mesa Westwood
- 226...Karl Kiefer,
Mountain Pointe
- 225...Tot Workman,
Round Valley
- 224...Emil Nasser, Winslow
- 210...Jesse Parker,
Mesa Mountain View
- 204...Boone Jackson,
Bullhead City
- 202...Jerry Loper, Chandler
- 202...Vern Friedli,
Tucson Amphip
- 200...Ralph Moran,
Wickenburg

passes. He joins Will Flake (5-8, 180), Jeremy Dush (5-7, 150) and George Squire (5-10, 175) to give the Lobos a small, but quick linebacking crew. Jeremy Decker (5-8, 150) joins QB Stratton in the secondary.

But like all championship teams, linemen make the difference. Tackle J.J. Reidhead (5-10, 200) is flanked by two good defensive ends, John Davis (6-0, 180) and Allen Reidhead (5-11, 185).

Still, the Lobos will field one of the school's smallest teams. And with the loss of Beall, not to mention a collection of talented all-league players (graduation), it will be tough for SHS to win 10 games (or more) four years in a row.

ROUND VALLEY

Although they came up short in the semifinals, Round Valley finished 8-4, giving veteran coach Tot Workman an impressive 225-67-2 record. Entering the 1993 campaign, the Elks' competitive little coach is just three wins shy of breaking the state career record (see chart).

"I'm excited about the upcoming year," says Workman, who has also coached in Nevada and Utah. "We graduated 23 seniors, so we are relying upon our past tradition."

Ten seniors are game tested. One of the better ones is center James Rogers (6-0, 190), who plays tackle on defense. Brian Hughes (5-8, 170) is a small but tough guard. So is Brian Rhoton (5-10, 170). Quarterback Shane Walker (6-2, 175) and running backs Justin Thompson (5-9, 155) and Arturo Mendias (5-8, 170) make up the backfield. Walker and Thompson also start in the secondary. Mendias can play linebacker.

Two-way tackle Emer Wiltbank (6-4, 200), RB/LB Jarom Willis (5-10, 170) and OG/LB Jack Wiltbank (5-10, 185) are additional players the RV coaching staff is counting on. On Aug. 27, Elk fans will get an early look at Workman's latest edition, when RV scrimmages southern power San Manuel, in The Dome in Springerville.

HOLBROOK

With nine starters back on offense, and seven on defense, Holbrook is optimistic. "We should compete for a playoff spot," insists Brian Miller, whose Roadrunners struggled through a 1-8 campaign. "We were real young last year. We had to remove some key players from the team. But only seven seniors graduated. We had a hard time putting four quarters together."

This trip should be smoother. Linebacker Olliser Ward (6-1, 190), who doubles at FB, was in on 112 tackles. Signal caller Matt Baldanado (5-9, 155) caught 31 passes as a WR, but will switch to quarterback. He's the team's free safety. Halfback Danny McDowell (5-9, 165) carried the ball 120 times, gained 852 yards and caught 20 passes. He joins Ward, along with seniors Chris White (6-0, 185) and Danny Koury (5-10, 180) to form a solid group of linebackers. White is also the team's center.

Cornerbacks Joey Goedinez (5-7, 160) and Kawika Stant (5-9, 145) join defensive ends Jason Barela (6-0, 180) and Trent Nichols (6-1, 185) to give the 'Runners a much improved defense. Stant and Nichols are juniors.

WINSLOW

Still trying to regroup is Winslow, which has had only two winning seasons since 1984. Last year, Coach Rich

Hoyt's Bulldogs finished 3-6 in the tough 3A-East. Historically, they are just five wins shy of 400, fourth best in state history (see chart).

"Our entire skill contingent moved last summer to bigger schools in Phoenix," says Hoyt. "We picked up the pieces and still won more games than we did with twice the talent in 1991. Which wasn't much."

The 'Dogs will be better, but still appear one year away from being a solid program again. Still, the key ingredient - big kids who can run - is sorely lacking.

"Attitude, strength, speed and hopefully numbers are all improved," insists the head coach.

Quarterback Ruben "Boonie" Smith (5-11, 215) and two-way back Derrek Marquez (5-9, 150) are seniors who must show leadership. With 4.7 speed, Marquez is one of the quicker 'Dogs in camp. The quickest (4.6) is talented junior Bobby Garcia (5-5, 135), proof that good, quick things can come in small packages. He doubles at RB/DB and does the team's punting.

Other good prospects from the junior class include OLB Adam Larsen (6-1, 195), MLB Tim Coffey (6-0, 200) and two-way guard Joey Hartnett (6-0, 210). All three have good, but not great speed. Still, defense is the name of the game when rebuilding, and Winslow is still rebuilding.

3A WEST REGION BRADSHAW MOUNTAIN

Life without James Richardson. That's what football fans in Dewey are faced with today. One of the best football players in the state picked up his diploma and moved to Mesa Community College. He could start at three different positions.

"We expected a better season, but fell to injuries to key people," says Steve Moran, whose Bears finished 6-4. "We lost six starters (including Richardson) and still had a winning season."

The Bears don't have the same skill players, but do have a good nucleus of athletes to work with. Guard Sean Dempsey (5-10, 200) and tackle Willie Weatherby (6-2, 235) return. Part-time

starters Scott Compson (6-2, 220, jr.) and Zack Hinshaw (5-9, 170) should help out a great deal. Transfer Nathan Cordova (5-10, 235, jr.) and JV giant John Kelley (6-4, 260) will play.

Returning at TE is Nathan Porter (6-3, 190), who caught 12 passes for 202 yards. He is bigger and faster. Other possible receivers include David Rocheleau (6-2, 185), Rudolph Pimentel (6-3, 185) and Josh Branch (5-11, 160). Transfer Brad Jannenga (6-5, 210) could help.

Back to the backfield comes FB Joe Wright (6-0, 210), who averaged 3.5 yards, and Terry Eckerman (5-9, 155), who had 477 yards on 92 carries. Challenging for playing time will be Mike Harris (5-9, 150), Herb Keppel (5-9, 160, jr.) and little Casey Wohlwend, at 5-3, 140 the smallest back in the league.

A starting receiver as a freshman, David Moran (6-0, 170) will start at QB. He passed for 404 yards in three games. As a receiver he had 849 yards and was an all-conference pick. Along with Compson, both earned all-star honors on defense as well.

PARKER

Although the Broncos will have to rebuild the offensive line, and replace several skill people, Mike Wolford and his staff believe they can be more than competitive in the 3A-West.

"Last year was a pleasant surprise," says Wolford, whose young club finished 8-2. "We thought we would finish in the middle of the pact, but won our region. We can do it again if our young, inexperienced line matures."

One Bronco who has already matured is giant two-way tackle Granthum Stevens (6-4, 295), who, along with two-way end Dustin Nelson

(5-10, 180), has all-state potential. Senior Matt Browning (6-3, 270) is no small potato himself, giving Parker two big linemen to build around.

Linebackers Spencer Greenlee (6-0, 190) and Danny Cowen (5-10, 175) add speed and experience to a potentially strong defense. Both players can start in the backfield, along with two-way back Andre Lightsey (5-10, 175). With those three, Parker's wing-T offense is set.

CAVE CREEK

The Cactus Shadows Falcons, located in Cave Creek, north of Phoenix, move up to 3A. Coach Gerry LaBelle's squad played tough, losing 22-14 to Phoenix Bourgade, 12-6 to Camp Verde, and 7-0 to top-ranked (at the time) Wickenburg, all playoff teams. "We hope to be in the top four in our league," says LaBelle, whose team finished 4-6.

Quarterback will be a problem - maybe. Untested transfer Eric Resch (from Texas) might win the job. Also looking to start is senior Jay Arnold (6-4, 180), who started at safety last year, and junior Brian Smith (5-7, 150), the JV starter.

But the key for the Falcons rides on the shoulders of five seniors: OT/DT Steven Johnson (see cover), a starter since his frosh year, who at 6-2, 240 is one of the best in the 3A-West; RB/DB Joey Hage (5-10, 160), RB/LB Logan Sparks (5-9, 155), RB/LB Devin Verhulst (5-11, 170) and RB/DB Luwin Lazo (5-10, 165).

Guards Vince Champa and Chris Nelson, along with center Matt Fiddler, were sometime starters. Tight ends Craig Yeager and Wade Brakefield, and guard Josh Ewin could lend stability to the line. Junior Rhett Schubert is a

promising young running back for the Falcons.

RIVER VALLEY

Although the Dust Devils have one of the lowest enrollments of the 3A schools, River Valley joins the West Region race, like it or not.

"We have a lot to prove," says second-year coach Dan Bellini. "But we feel like we can play with anybody."

Last fall was the school's first year. Only five seniors dotted the roster. Eight juniors, nine sophomores and two freshmen started.

Started!

"We improved every week and enjoyed starting a tradition of good football here," adds the coach, whose club finished 3-6.

If seniors are the key, RV is off on the right foot, with WR/DB Ernie Tafoya (6-3, 170) and RB/LB Josh Smith (5-11, 165) in the lineup. These two-way players must stay healthy for the Devils to win more than three games. Tafoya gained 1,100 all-purpose yards, and returned two kickoffs for touchdowns.

Senior linemen like Kynan Kreidel (6-3, 195) and Matt Bates (6-2, 210) have size and experience to add to the fight. Junior Dain Williams (6-1, 200) has promise. Junior Justin Davis (6-1, 180) joins Smith in the backfield, and at linebacker.

The quickest Devil could be a transfer, RB/LB Josh Stewart, who might move over from Mohave High. With 4.6 speed, he would add depth to an already solid linebacking crop, and more ammo to the offense.

FOUNTAIN HILLS

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for Fountain Hills, which posted a 6-2 JV record. Coach Jim Fairfield has his entire unit back, including junior QB Dru Martinson (6-2, 175), who passed for 1,302 yards and 15 TDs with the soph team. Junior Mike Amdahl (6-2, 215) led the team in tackles. Wide receiver Griffin Wyman (5-10, 155) is one senior who will contribute. Junior Sean Maloney (5-10, 150) is Martinson's other wideout. Young Chris Comeau (5-11, 220) will start at center. He's just a sophomore. Casey Huish (5-10, 185) is a leader at linebacker. So is Douglas Ahnne (5-11, 185) and big tackle Russ Muhle (6-4, 285), two key transfers.

3A NORTH REGION MONUMENT VALLEY

The Mustangs, coached by Ed Tano, won a school record nine regular season games, then dropped a playoff tilt in the first round. Only five lettermen return, so the rivalry in the north heats up. Rocky Tano, the coach's son, runs 40 yards in 4.7 seconds, starts at half-back and roams the secondary. At 5-10, 175, Tano matches teammates Dewayn Reid, Eric Hoshnio, Darwin Reid and Chuck Benally in size. All five are good two-way players. As for the 3A-North race, Tano makes no bones about his opinion: "It's all even this year, unless Window Rock gets away with playing over aged kids."

TUBA CITY

Coach Don Roe is looking at eight lettermen, all who started several games, to help improve a 3-6 finish. "If the injury bug doesn't hit again, we should be respectable," says Roe. "The eight returning players can all play, and we have a good crop of sophomores coming up."

One of the best and quickest Warriors in camp is senior Bruce Ybanez (5-9, 210), a bulldozer fullback and hard-nosed linebacker - with 4.7 speed. Center Harold Navaho (6-0, 200) and junior tackle Thompson Begay (6-1, 220) anchor the line. Brian Worker (5-10, 170) is the club's quarterback. He also plays in the secondary.

Coach Roe has two speedy backs in the junior class, Mike Howard (5-9, 175) and Chris Kinsley (5-9, 150), both with 4.6 speed. Like most Tuba City squads, speed has to make up for a lack of size, and depth.

GANADO

The Hornets, coached by Russell Semore, recorded a 6-3 record then dropped a playoff game, ending their best season since 1989. Fifteen players, more than half the roster, were underclassmen, with four members of the sophomore class represented.

Key figure might be junior-to-be Jason Curley (5-11, 170), the club's field general. He has two more years to develop. Wideout Timothy Young (5-9, 150), FB/LB Ivan Begay (5-10, 170) and two-way end Emerson James (6-3, 177) were the other three sophomores who lettered.

2A NORTH REGION (SOUTH LEAGUE) ST. JOHNS

After knocking on the championship door for four straight years, it finally opened. Coach Mike Morgan's near-perfect crew finished 12-1, beating Morenci in the 2A title game, 20-8, bringing home the "big gold trophy" for the first time since 1978.

Ten graduated seniors were responsible for 40 victories in four years, as the Redskins have gone 8-3, 10-2, 9-2, and 12-1 since Morgan moved to town. The biggest hole to fill is that of All-Arizona nose guard Brian Bell, who had over 200 career solo tackles; over 350 assists.

"I feel we will be another top competitor," warns Morgan, whose JV club finished 7-1. "Graduation left some vacant spots. But with hard work and a proper attitude we can be a pretty good club. Quickness will be our biggest asset."

If they stay healthy, St. Johns has three potential all-state players in the lineup: Center Ronald Dimbatt (6-0, 230), and linebackers Ryan Patterson (6-2, 200) and Garrett Naegle (6-1, 215). With 4.7 speed Patterson also plays running back.

Senior Quinn Ashton (5-11, 170), a good all-round athlete, will start at QB,

plays in the secondary and does all the kicking. Fullback Frank Pena (6-0, 200) plays a mean defensive end. Junior running back Marcus Bell (6-2, 195) is the club's free safety. Levi Howard (5-11, 165), a wideout with 4.7 speed, is also a good defensive back. Classmates Clint Greer and Aron Salazar play in the secondary, with big Matt Fish (6-3, 188) a two-way end.

The rest of the lineup is underclassmen, starting with juniors Brad Baca, Webb Hogle, Mike King, Tyson Slade, Jake Hammett and Jeremy Ryan, along with giant tackles Dustin Udall (6-1, 225) and Ray Thomas (5-11, 245), to list just a few. Halfback Blue Sopko (5-10, 185) and end Sam Naegle (6-1, 190) are promising sophomores.

St. Johns has an Aug. 27 scrimmage with Winslow on the road, then opens at Holbrook before hosting bitter rival Round Valley on Sept. 10.

2A NORTH REGION (NORTH LEAGUE) HOPI

The Bruins had another good year, winning six of nine games, and beat Tuba City. Bill Johnson's crew lost all three quarterbacks to injuries, and that hurt in the last three games.

"We have a lot of young running backs returning," says Johnson, whose teams have not lost more than three games in a season. "We still need to replace a few linemen."

If the following Bruins stay healthy, Hopi should be the team to beat in the region: RB Chris Mansfield rushed for 725 yards; DE Brandon Talaumptewa was an all-league pick; RB Chris Wytewa scored six TDs; LB/FB Kevin Dennis is a good two-way player; SE/DE Calvin Laban has good speed, good hands; SE Gaylord Nodman is recovering from a knee injury; TB Fredell Panawa ran for 595 yards as a freshman.

MANY FARMS

The Lobos got off on the wrong foot, to say the least. Dean Cunningham's crew lost five (5!) starters in their opener and dropped three games in a row. Then, with everybody healthy, won four straight before falling to state champ St. Johns

and Alchesay.

"We will be very deep in our line, which will help our young backs," says Cunningham. "We should be very good by midseason. I look to win our region again."

The best Lobo in camp appears to be two-way end Harriston Honie (6-2, 220), but teammates like RB/DB Bruce Todaline (5-9, 165), RB/LB Sam Honie (6-0, 185), OL/DL Dudley Nelson (5-10, 200), WR/DB Ernest Shay (5-8, 150) and QB/DB Shawn Begay (6-0, 180) can hold their own. Young Begay is just a sophomore.

2A WEST REGION (NORTH LEAGUE)

WICKENBURG

Another happy playoff camper was Jon Hill at Wickenburg, where his crew finished 9-2, best at the school since 1977. The Wranglers dropped a semifinal contest to Morenci, 14-7. "Last year was great," says Hill. "We were full of motivated seniors. This year, I'm concerned about our lack of experience on the offensive line, and our entire defense."

But there's no problem in the backfield. Not with HB Scott Drescher (5-8, 170) and FB Brian Mills (5-10, 185) in the lineup. Last fall, Drescher (see cover) managed 99 carries, good for 638 yards and 18 touchdowns. He also averaged 16 yards per catch. He's best position might be defense, where he intercepted nine passes at a corner. The same goes for Mills, who might be one of the best linebackers around.

With senior OG/DT Pete Tolar (6-0, 185) and senior WR/DB Lance Hancock (6-0, 150) going both ways, Wickenburg needs a full season of production from juniors like RB/DB Sam Laurella (5-8, 165), WR/DB Issac Snyder (6-0, 155) and TE/DE Kevin McComb (6-2, 195), to name a few, in order to reach the playoffs again. Young QB Josh Magden (6-2, 180) must play well, too.

Last year's club scored 330 points, while allowing just 69. If the line matures, backs like Drescher, Mills and Laurella might light it up again.

CAMP VERDE

The Cowboys opened with a diffi-

cult preseason schedule, and at the end of "week four" were 0-4, with three close losses to 3A schools and a blow-out loss to Ray. Then success began and Doug Lee's squad went 5-1 in regular season play, beating Wickenburg, ranked No. 1 at the time, 8-7 in OT.

"This could be a good year if we can find a quarterback," says Lee, who welcomes back 17 letter winners. "We return seven starters, including four linemen and two first team all-state receivers."

The all-staters are TE Chad Auker (6-1, 185, 37 catches) and WR Jared Howard (5-10, 165, 36 catches). Both are good athletes. In fact, Auker might be switched to quarterback. Howard is a junior.

If the Cowboys junior class adds depth to the script, the senior class supplies the beef: Chet Teeters (6-4, 220), Heath Helgersen (6-4, 320), Jonathan Leon (5-10, 200), Mason Lienhart (6-1, 245), Steve Lowry (6-0, 225) and Tim Romero (6-0, 250) help form the biggest forward wall in the league.



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20 Years Ago (1973)

Panther Trophy Case Fills Up

Richard Rucker and Marshall Edwards were the kind of high school athletes opposing coaches have nightmares about, but college coaches dream about.

Rucker, who later signed with Arizona, and Edwards, who signed with Arizona State, were two big reasons Canyon del Oro was picked No. 1 in the state in September, 1973.

City rival Flowing Wells returned only nine players from its 1972 state runnerup club, and all-state quarterback David Galvez had suffered a shoulder injury early in the season.

After a late October meeting between the two Tucson giants, Flowing Wells was feasting on a 21-13 win, with sights set on the playoffs.

Nobody paid much attention elsewhere. But up north, Coconino High wrapped up the AA-North title with an impressive 35-14 win over defending state champ Agua Fria. Earlier, the Owls dealt Flowing Wells a 34-21 setback.

That should have been a clue.

While all eyes were on the CDO-FW matchup in the south, all eyes in the north zeroed in on Coconino's junior quarterback, Ray Smith. The 150-pound field general, today one of the school's all-time best athletes, ran for two scores and passed for two against the defending champs.

In the finals, Coconino entered the contest with a 7-2-1 record. Coached by Bill Epperson, who guided the Panthers to its first state crown in 1968 (over Flowing Wells), CHS lost its opener to rival Flag High, tied Class A power Eloy Santa Cruz, and fell to Winslow in the waning seconds.

Flowing Wells, coached by Larry Hart, had finished runnerup two previous years. Coconino took advantage of numerous Caballero turnovers to record a 14-3 title game win, played at historic Tucson High Field. Eight fumbles and three pass interceptions spelled doom.

"They have a good football team," said Epperson, who left the coaching ranks in 1979 with an 85-40-1 mark. "They just fumbled the ball away too much to win. I can't believe all the tough luck Flowing Wells has had in the playoffs."

At the start of the second quarter, Smith connected with Rick Decosmo on a 13-yard scoring pass, and Ben Flores booted the extra point. Coconino led 7-3 at half-time.

After that it was not a question of Flowing Wells being able to move the ball - which they did - but being able to stop



As a junior quarterback, Smith rushed for 1,000 yards and passed for over 700. One year later he was switched to tailback (Paul Sweitzer photo).

their own mistakes. Their eight fumbles - five which were lost - is a state title game record to this date.

Ironically, when Coconino beat the Cabs in the '68 finals, tackle Rick Brenfleck scooped up a fumble with less than two minutes left, and ran 85 yards to win the game. Although Flowing Wells was 0-5 in the championship game, at least they're in it. A lot of schools never are.

Coconino's excellent line play was paced by senior Cameron Stavely, and backed by linebacker David Blackburn. But the offense was wrapped up in one player. Smith.

Although he stood only 5-feet, 8-inches tall, he single handedly demolished Agua Fria in that 35-14 decider. Overall, he collected more than 1,600 yards offense, scored 15 touchdowns, passed for six.

As a team, Coconino exploded for 3,342 total yards, 303.8 per game. They rushed for a 233.5 average, and passed for over 70 yards per contest.

And they didn't stop there. One year later, with Smith rushing for a state title

game record 247 yards as a tailback, the Panthers knocked out Douglas, 21-14, for the young schools third crown in seven years.

Although they again fell short of their goal, Flowing Wells' record speaks for itself. During the past four years, the Cabs' regular season record vs AA competition - was 33-1-2. Their four year total reads 34-5-2.

As little Ray Smith was the dominating figure in Coconino's championship bid, big Chris Laursen was the dominating force behind Gilbert's run to the Class A crown. The Tigers dismantled Morenci 27-6 at Scottsdale's Saguaro High.

At Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, upcoming Phoenix Camelback, coached by young Jesse Parker, dropped a heartbreaking 22-20 decision to Tucson Palo Verde. It was the last football game coached by the winner's Van Howe, whose club finished 13-0. Down in Class B, Bullhead City Mohave shutout Florence 12-0, while high scoring Pima beat Fredonia 36-21 in the 8-man finals.

1973 COCONINO PANTHERS



20-Year Anniversary!
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HEAD COACH, Bill Epperson
(8-2-1)

PANTHERS 6, Flagstaff 22 (L)

PANTHERS 33, Globe 6

PANTHERS 7, Eloy Santa Cruz 7 (T)

PANTHERS 21, Snowflake 13

PANTHERS 24, Winslow 26 (L)

PANTHERS 28, Coolidge 6

PANTHERS 34, Tolleson 0

PANTHERS 40, Nogales 6

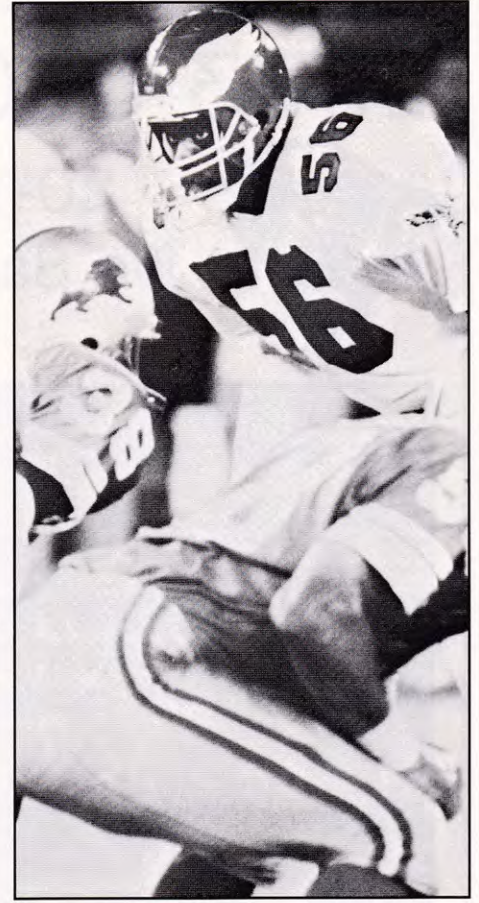
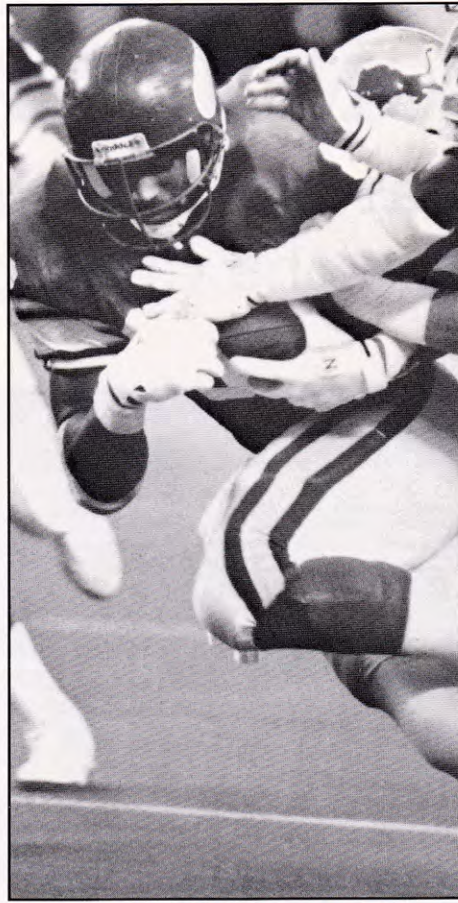
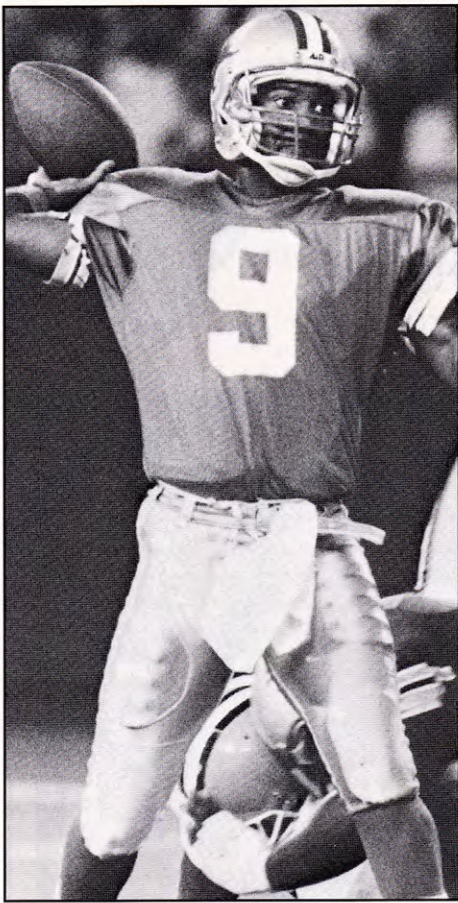
PANTHERS 29, Kingman 0

PANTHERS 35, Agua Fria 14

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

PANTHERS 14, Tucson Flowing Wells 3

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Detroit Lion quarterback Rodney Peete, Minnesota Viking tight end Steve Jordan, and Philadelphia Eagle linebacker Byron Evans were three of a record 28 Arizona schoolboy products in the National Football League last year.

Soaring at a Higher Level

By Barry C. Sollenberger

The odds are stacked against you. According to the National Federation of High School Sports, close to one million teenagers play high school football each year. Just over 40,000 make college varsity teams.

But only 150 of those college players make NFL rosters. In other words, just to be safe, get a college education. Just in case the pros overlook your outstanding, hidden talent.

"The odds against a high school senior playing football in the NFL are roughly 1,000 to one," says Fred Mares of the National Federation, located in Kansas City.

To be exact, one out of every 1,233 schoolboy players land in the NFL.

But something is wrong in Arizona.

According to the Arizona Interscholastic Association, the state's governing body, exactly 12,593 young-

sters - at all levels - played 11-man football in 144 schools. Exactly 505 played 8-man ball at 20 different schools. That's 13,098 players in 1992.

But 28 former Arizona high school products played in the NFL last fall (see chart), a single season record for the Grand Canyon State. If no more than two drop out in 1993, and newcomers Michael Bates (Seattle Seahawks), Richard Griffith (New England Patriots), Kevin Miniefield (Detroit Lions) and Ty Parten (Cincinnati Bengals) hook on - not to mention free agents - Arizona could

have 30-plus schoolboys in the NFL for the first time ever.

"That really surprises me," adds Mares, editor of the Federation's national record book. "To have less than 200 high schools produce that many pro players is unique."

All 28 players didn't graduate in the same year, and all 13,000 high school participants aren't varsity players. More than half were junior varsity and freshmen, making Arizona's mark more amazing. In other words, based on participation, Arizona should have no more than one dozen kids in the NFL in any given season.

But they had 28 in 1992!

"I was really surprised at football in the Phoenix and Tucson areas," says Tom Holmoe, a Stanford assistant who recruits Arizona. "They play great ball in Phoenix. One of the best football

"That really surprises me. To have less than 200 high schools produce that many pro players is unique."

"They play great ball in Phoenix. One of the best football cities in the country ... It's just a great football state ... But it's no secret."

cities in the country. Top to bottom the leagues are tough. It's just a great football state; a real fruitful area. But it's no secret."

To recruiters like Holmoe, size and population are no barriers. Last spring, Stanford signed the Arizona player of the year, Brophy Prep running back Mike Mitchell, and Glendale receiver Alistair White, a player the Cardinal think is a real steal.

"But every school looks for players to fit their system," adds Holmoe. "Because of our academic requirements, we are forced to recruit nationally. Phoenix is a hot spot. In more ways that one."

One local mentor who has coached more than his share of college material is Mountain Pointe's Karl Kiefer, winner of more than 200 games in the high school ranks. "Phoenix has grown such, that every year there are 10 kids, no less, who can play at Arizona State's level," insists Kiefer. "Some colleges have that figured out. Some haven't."

According to Gary Wright of the Seattle Seahawks, since the New York

"Phoenix has grown such, that every year there are 10 kids, no less, who can play at Arizona State's level. Some colleges have that figured out. Some haven't."

Giants signed Phoenix Union's Cecil "Brute" Mulleneaux in 1932, close to 200 Arizona high school products have played professional football in Canada or the United States.

Here are interesting facts regarding the current crop:

Of last year's crop of 28, only nine played college football at ASU; but that's two more than played for those Cats down the road...

More Arizona kids (28) dotted NFL rosters than did Sun Devils (20); remembering that nine played at ASU...

The Minnesota Vikings had the

PRO PARADE

The 28 Arizona schoolboy products in the NFL in 1992:

QUARTERBACKS

Rodney Peete, Detroit Lions (Tucson Sahuaro).....USC
Mike Pagel, Los Angeles Rams (Phoenix Washington).....ASU

WIDE RECEIVERS

Vance Johnson, Denver Broncos (Tucson Cholla)Arizona
Anthony Edwards, Phoenix Cardinals (Casa Grande) ...N.M. Highlands
Sanjau Beach, Green Bay Packers (Chandler)Colorado St.
Damon Mays, Houston Oilers (Phoenix Central)Missouri
*Orlando McKay, Green Bay Packers (Mesa).....Washington

TIGHT ENDS

Steve Jordan, Minnesota Vikings (South Mountain).....Brown

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Randall McDaniel, Minnesota Vikings (Agua Fria)ASU
John Fina, Buffalo Bills (Tucson Salpointe)Arizona
Danny Villa, Phoenix Cardinals (Nogales)ASU
Mike Keim, Seattle Seahawks (Round Valley)BYU
*Todd Kalis, Minnesota Vikings (Phoenix Thunderbird)ASU
*Frank Pollack, San Francisco 49ers (Phoenix Greenway)NAU

CENTERS

Dale Hellestrae, Dallas Cowboys (Scottsdale Saguaro)SMU

KICKERS

Jeff Feagles, Philadelphia Eagles (Phoenix Gerard).....Miami (Fla.)

LINEBACKERS

Byron Evans, Philadelphia Eagles (South Mountain)Arizona
Riki (Gray) Ellison, Los Angeles Raiders (Tucson Amphi).....USC
Darren Woodson, Dallas Cowboys (Phoenix Maryvale)ASU
John Rade, Atlanta Falcons (Sierra Vista Buena)Boise State

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Shawn Patterson, Green Bay Packers (Tempe McClintock)ASU

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Randy Robbins, Denver Broncos (Casa Grande).....Arizona
Brian Davis, Seattle Seahawks (Phoenix Cortez).....Nebraska
Kevin Scott, Detroit Lions (Phoenix St. Mary's)Stanford
Anthony Parker, Minnesota Vikings (Tempe McClintock)ASU
Phillippi Sparks, New York Giants (Phoenix Maryvale)ASU
Muhammad Oliver, Denver Broncos (Phoenix North)Oregon

KICK RETURNER

Vai Sikahema, Philadelphia Eagles (Mesa).....BYU

DRAFTED NEWCOMERS

Richard Griffith, New England Patriots (Tucson Catalina)Arizona
Kevin Miniefield, Detroit Lions (Phoenix Camelback).....ASU
Ty Parten, Cincinnati Bengals (Scottsdale Horizon).....Arizona
Michael Bates, Seattle Seahawks (Tucson Amphi)Arizona

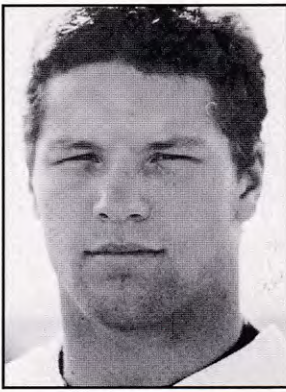
**Injured reserve*

most with four, including Pro Bowl players Steve Jordan (South Mountain) and Randall McDaniel (Agua Fria)...

South Mountain, which leads the all-time Arizona list at 10, was one of several schools to have two active NFL alumni: Jordan, and Philly linebacker

Byron Evans, a QB in high school.

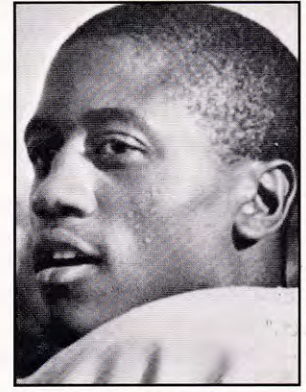
Although schools from the Mesa-Tempe region dominate the Class 5A playoffs, they don't dominate the talent. The Phoenix Metro Region had more grads (9) in the NFL than both East Valley leagues combined (7).



**Trent Thompson
Chinle**

All-Time Northern Arizona Football Records

Sponsored By Blue Cross Blue Shield



**Caesar Polk
Flagstaff**

TOUCHDOWNS (GAME)

8Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1986 (jr)
6Joe Spear, Snowflake, 1958
6Dillard Nelson, Williams, 1970
6Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1986 (jr)
6Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991 (jr)
6Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991 (jr)
5Elmer Shull, Kingman, 1927
5Roy Campbell, Prescott, 1945
5Charley Jones, Prescott, 1955
5Terry Penrod, McNary, 1956
5Emmett Wesler, Williams, 1961
5James Dugan, Flagstaff, 1963
5Lewis Renfro, Winslow, 1963
5Jack Johnson, Round Valley, 1969
5Bud Nash, Kingman, 1970
5Pat Rubio, St. Johns, 1970
5Sid Udall, Round Valley, 1973
5Danny Beckworth, Page, 1975
5Danny Beckworth, Page, 1975
5David Trueblood, Coconino, 1981
5Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1981
5David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1985
5Scott Heap, St. Johns, 1987
5George Krekelberg, Camp Verde, 1987
5Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1989(jr)

TOUCHDOWNS (SEASON)

35Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1981
35Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1989
33Dillard Nelson, Williams, 1970
29Danny Beckwith, Page, 1975
29David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1985
28Ron Carillo, Round Valley, 1966 (jr)
28Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991 (jr)
27Guy Grover, Prescott, 1987
26Tom Fruth, Payson, 1981
26Chris Matthews, Round Valley, 1981
26Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1987
26Spencer Ellsworth, St. Johns, 1991 (jr)
25Billy Hatcher, Williams, 1978
25David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1984 (jr)
25Josh Freegard, Mingus Union, 1991
25Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1992

TOUCHDOWNS (CAREER)

70Travis Palmer, Camp Verde, 1988-91

62David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1983-85
60Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1988-90
59Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1979-81
53Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991-92
52Tom Fruth, Payson, 1978-81
51Mark Hamblin, Round Valley, 1969-71
47James Dugan, Flagstaff, 1961-63

POINTS (GAME)

48Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1986
38Joe Spear, Snowflake, 1958
38Dillard Nelson, Williams, 1970
38Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1986
36Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991 (jr)
36Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991 (jr)

POINTS (SEASON)

244Jeremy Hathcock, B.R., 1989 (jr)
229Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1981
214Dillard Nelson, Williams, 1970
180David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1985
180Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1987
168Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991 (jr)
162Billy Hatcher, Williams, 1978
162Chris Matthews, Round Valley, 1981
162Guy Grover, Prescott, 1987
156Tom Fruth, Payson, 1981
156Spencer Ellsworth, St. Johns, 1991 (jr)
155James Dugan, Flagstaff, 1963

POINTS (CAREER)

420Travis Palmer, Camp Verde, 1988-91
402Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1988-90
377Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1979-81
372David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1983-85
324Dillard Nelson, Williams, 1969-70
320Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991-92
316Mark Hamblin, Round Valley, 1969-71
315James Dugan, Flagstaff, 1960-63
312Tom Fruth, Round Valley, 1978-81

RUSHING YARDS (GAME)

469Stanley Jackson, Chinle, 1976
330Joe Spear, Snowflake, 1958
329David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1985
303David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1984 (jr)
297Danny Beckwith, Page, 1975

294Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1981
291Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1989
275Jeff Holly, Blue Ridge, 1987 (jr)
275Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1990
274Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991 (jr)

RUSHING YARDS (SEASON)

2,187 ...David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1984 (jr)
2,123 ...Tom Fruth, Payson, 1981
2,114 ...David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1985
2,111 ...Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1981
2,062 ...Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1989
1,926 ...Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991 (jr)
1,911 ...Ammon Lambson, Round Valley, 1990
1,876 ...Chris Matthews, Round Valley, 1981
1,826 ...Harold Smith, Ganado, 1987 (jr)

RUSHING YARDS (CAREER)

4,985 ...Travis Palmer, Camp Verde, 1988-91
4,880 ...David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1983-85 (3)
4,461 ...Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1979-81
4,265 ...Tom Fruth, Payson, 1978-81
3,877 ...Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1988-90
3,794 ...John Udall, Round Valley, 1982-84
3,736 ...Chris Matthews, RV, 1979-81
3,370 ...Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991-92
3,268 ...Jeff Holly, Blue Ridge, 1986-88
3,220 ...Spencer Ellsworth, St. Johns, 1990-92

AVERAGE YARDS PER CARRY (SEASON)

14.1Jewell Russell, Coconino, 1978 (jr)
13.4Sid Udall, Round Valley, 1973
13.4Mike Gonzalez, Flagstaff, 1983
12.3Scott Hamblin, Round Valley, 1980
11.8Joe Spear, Snowflake, 1958
11.2Fred Whipple, Snowflake, 1954
11.0James Dugan, Flagstaff, 1963
11.0Danny Beckwith, Page, 1975
10.8Travis Palmer, Camp Verde, 1990 (jr)
10.5Jay Smith, Snowflake, 1979
10.4Jeremy Hathcock, BR, 1989 (jr)
10.4Dustin Johnson, Round Valley, 1990

AVERAGE YARDS PER GAME (SEASON)

192.2 ...David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1985
182.3 ...David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1984 (jr)
181.0 ...Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1990



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In 1962, Snowflake's all-state flanker D.L. Nikolaus (24) caught a state record 66 passes. (Winslow Mail photo)

175.1 ...Caesar Polk, Flagstaff, 1991 (jr)

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN RUN

99Bob Bledsoe, Flagstaff, 1963
 99Steve Moncibaez, Mingus, 1985 (so)
 98Kelly LeSuer, Round Valley, 1976
 97Reggie Edwards, Page, 1973
 97Dennis Baker, Blue Ridge, 1983
 96Danny Beckwith, Page, 1974 (jr)
 96David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1985
 96Wally Lien, Blue Ridge, 1985
 95Charley Jones, Prescott, 1955
 95Gary Kiepke, Snowflake, 1962

QUARTERBACK SNEAK (TOUCHDOWN)

99Bob Bledsoe, Flagstaff, 1963
 99Steve Moncibaez, Mingus, 1985 (so)

PASSING YARDS (GAME)

449Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 440Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 435Gentry Gillespie, Round Valley, 1991
 393Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 393David Nelson, Parker, 1988
 380Paschal Kinsel, Chinle, 1977
 365Mike Orewyler, Mohave, 1977
 362Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 354Audie McKee, Coconino, 1983
 354Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 318Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 309Gary McEwen, Snowflake, 1982
 306Willy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1990
 302Gary McEwen, Snowflake, 1982

PASSING YARDS (SEASON)

2,923Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)

2,719 ...Gary McEwen, Snowflake, 1982
 2,098 ...Audie McKee, Coconino, 1983
 1,969 ...Willy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1990
 1,902 ...Bryan Baker, Blue Ridge, 1991
 1,895 ...Sammy Cockerel, Coconino, 1992
 1,837 ...David Nelson, Parker, 1988
 1,822 ...Dave Davison, Coconino, 1984
 1,767 ...Willy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1989 (jr)
 1,753 ...Gentry Gillespie, Round Valley, 1991
 1,751 ...David Morgan, Parker, 1989 (jr)
 1,671 ...Travis Hill, Kingman, 1990
 1,660 ...Vinnie Zanzucchi, Flagstaff, 1983

PASSING YARDS (CAREER)

5,291 ...Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988-90
 4,375 ...Joel England, Camp Verde, 1988-90
 4,026 ...Travis Hill, Kingman, 1988-90
 3,823 ...Willy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1988-90
 3,741 ...Audie McKee, Coconino, 1982-83 (2)
 3,500 ...David Nelson, Parker, 1986-88
 3,326 ...Dave Davison, Round Valley, 1984-85
 3,276 ...Eddie Hamblin, Coconino, 1979-81
 3,042 ...Bryan Baker, Blue Ridge, 1990-91

TOUCHDOWN PASSES (GAME)

7Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 6Audie McKee, Coconino, 1983
 6Willy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1990
 5Joe Atterholt, Page, 1969
 5Eric Ramsey, Snowflake, 1983
 5Bert Gough, Flagstaff, 1984
 5Mike McMahn, Prescott, 1987
 5Bret Hood, Camp Verde, 1987
 5Joel England, Camp Verde, 1989 (jr)
 5Steve Reeser, Prescott, 1991

TOUCHDOWN PASSES (SEASON)

26Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 25Willy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1990
 24Gary McEwen, Snowflake, 1982
 23Joe Atterholt, Page, 1969
 23Audie McKee, Coconino, 1983
 23Bret Hood, Camp Verde, 1987
 22Mike McMahn, Prescott, 1987
 21Greg Woodard, Page, 1968
 21David Morgan, Parker, 1989 (jr)

TOUCHDOWN PASSES (CAREER)

47Joel England, Camp Verde, 1988-90
 45Willy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1988-90
 42Travis Hill, Kingman, 1988-90
 41Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988-90
 40Audie McKee, Coconino, 1982-83 (2)

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PASS

99Keola Bandman to Matt Hanners, Page, 1986
 97Eddie Hamblin to Dusty Eager, Round Valley, 1981
 96Rick Gwynne to Mike Epperson, Flagstaff, 1988
 90John Harvey to Dave Hinson, Prescott, 1957

RECEPTIONS (GAME)

19Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 18Randy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1982 (jr)
 18Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 18Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 17Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 17Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 13Mike Johnson, Parker, 1989
 13Hermon Logan, Round Valley, 1991
 12Dusty Eager, Round Valley, 1980 (jr)
 12Ky Christiansen, Lake Havasu, 1987
 12Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 12Mike Johnson, Parker, 1989

RECEPTIONS (SEASON)

89Randy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1982 (jr)
 83Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 77Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 77Mike Johnson, Parker, 1989
 66D.L. Nikolaus, Snowflake, 1962
 60Tony Tate, Snowflake, 1982
 59Clifford Nodman, Hopi, 1989
 57Brian Merrill, Show Low, 1990
 56Brian Merrill, Show Low, 1989 (jr)
 54Brian Maxwell, Show Low, 1989
 53David Kiepke, Camp Verde, 1990

RECEPTIONS (CAREER)

135Mike Johnson, Parker, 1987-89 (3)
 133Brian Merrill, Show Low, 1988-90
 132Herman Logan, Round Valley, 1989-91
 99Herman Logan, Round Valley, 1988-90
 96David Kiepke, Camp Verde, 1989-90

RECEIVING YARDS (GAME)

321Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 318Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 313Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988



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299.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 289.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 239.....Mike Johnson, Parker, 1989
 234.....Darrin Parker, Prescott, 1983 (jr)
 230.....Phillip Miller, Coconino, 1983

RECEIVING YARDS (SEASON)

1,276...Mike Johnson, Parker, 1989
 1,220...Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 1,088...Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 * 983...Dusty Eager, Round Valley, 1981
 978...Vince Pulsifer, Round Valley, 1978
 953...David Merrill, Show Low, 1990
 933...David Kiepke, Camp Verde, 1989 (jr)
 913...Clifford Nodman, Hopi, 1989
 905...Tony Tate, Snowflake, 1982

RECEIVING YARDS (CAREER)

2,137...Hermon Logan, Round Valley, 1989-91
 2,126...Mike Johnson, Parker, 1987-89 (3)
 2,002...Hermon Logan Round Valley, 1989-91
 1,936...Dusty Eager, Round Valley, 1979-81
 1,870...David Merrill, Show Low, 1988-90

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (GAME)

5.....George Krekelberg, Camp Verde, 1987
 4.....Mike Flake, Snowflake, 1982
 4.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (SEASON)

15.....Gerald Urlaub, Bradshaw Mtn., 1991
 14.....Mark Cibik, Coconino, 1982
 13.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 13.....Mike Johnson, Parker, 1989
 12.....David Merrill, Show Low, 1990
 11.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 11.....Mike Johnson, Parker, 1988 (jr)
 11.....David Kiepke, Camp Verde, 1989 (jr)
 10.....Bill Black, Coconino, 1982
 10.....Greg Book, Kingman, 1989 (jr)
 10.....Greg Book, Kingman, 1990
 10.....Mark Young, Coconino, 1992 (jr)

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (CAREER)

24.....Mike Johnson, Parker, 1987-89
 23.....Dusty Eager, Round Valley, 1979-81
 20.....David Kiepke, Camp Verde, 1989-90
 20.....Greg Book, Kingman, 1989-90

INTERCEPTIONS (SEASON)

12.....Chad Ence, St. Johns, 1989 (jr)
 11.....Chris Patterson, St. Johns, 1977 (jr)
 11.....Drayton Martin, Round Valley, 1987
 11.....T. D. Hall, Blue Ridge, 1988 (jr)
 11.....Willie Martinez, Parker, 1988
 10.....P. Holt, Mingus, 1968
 10.....Stuart Moring, Round Valley, 1980
 10.....George Pryer, Flagstaff, 1982
 10.....Eric Lane, Coconino, 1983
 10.....James Merrill, Mingus, 1988
 10.....Travis McClendon, Mingus, 1990

INTERCEPTIONS (CAREER)

24.....Troy Gilliland, Parker, 1982-85 (4)
 20.....Chad Ence, St. Johns, 1989-90

INTERCEPTIONS (GAME)

4.....Kevin Stars, Window Rock, 1974
 4.....Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1986 (jr)
 4.....Tommy Stamps, Bradshaw Mt., '88 (jr)
 3.....Nate Bly, Winslow, 1961
 3.....James Dugan, Flagstaff, 1963
 3.....Mark Hamblin, Round Valley, 1970 (jr)
 3.....John Frawley, Mohave, 1973
 3.....John Land, Winslow, 1976
 3.....Tim Pettit, Williams, 1977
 3.....Dean Severns, Kingman, 1977
 3.....Mike Boggio, Kingman, 1979
 3.....Stuart Moring, Round Valley, 1980
 3.....Darren Turley, St. Johns, 1982
 3.....Lesi Broyles, Coconino, 1984
 3.....Roger Pfeiffer, Kingman, 1989
 3.....Sean Beaty, Camp Verde, 1989 (jr)
 3.....Todd Owen, Camp Verde, 1989 (jr)
 3.....Willy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1990
 3.....Rob Stoneburger, Mingus, 1990
 3.....Jim Richardson, Brad. Mtn., 1991 (jr)

LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURN

104.....Bill Kerr, Kingman, 1952
 103.....Greg Turner, Flagstaff, 1978
 102.....Edgar Brown, Williams, 1968
 99.....Dale Nielson, Holbrook, 1976
 99.....Norm Isaacson, St. Johns, 1976

TD INTERCEPTIONS (GAME)

3.....Nate Bly, Winslow, 1961

FIELD GOALS (GAME)

4.....Eddie Hamblin, Round Valley, 1980 (jr)
 4.....Eddie Hamblin, Round Valley, 1981
 3.....Art Kerrick, Coconino, 1978
 3.....Rick Savedra, Round Valley, 1970
 3.....Bob McGeary, Lake Havasu, 1974
 3.....James Crutchfield, Snowflake, 1975
 3.....Richard Lowell, St. Johns, 1977
 3.....Jim Long, Kingman, 1982
 3.....Chris Ellis, Blue Ridge, 1987
 3.....Andrew Stuck, Tuba City, 1988

FIELD GOALS (SEASON)

11.....Tony Butts, Lake Havasu, 1976
 11.....Eddie Hamblin, Round Valley, 1981
 11.....Dean Roney, Winslow, 1983 (jr)
 10.....Bob McGeary, Lake Havasu, 1974
 10.....Dean Roney, Winslow, 1984
 10.....Mike Cook, St. Johns, 1990 (jr)

FIELD GOALS (CAREER)

21.....Dean Roney, Winslow, 1983-84
 20.....Herik Mandel, Coconino, 1980-82
 19.....Bob McGeary, Lake Havasu, 1972-74
 19.....Eddie Hamblin, Round Valley, 1979-81

LONGEST FIELD GOALS

52.....Dean Roney, Winslow, 1984
 51.....Hank Lopez, Flagstaff, 1975
 51.....Brian Rau, Flagstaff, 1990
 50.....Brian Abraham, Kingman, 1979
 48.....Bob McGeary, Lake Havasu, 1973 (jr)
 48.....Allen Meacham, Coconino, 1984
 47.....Tony Butts, Lake Havasu, 1976

47.....Art Kerrick, Coconino, 1978
 47.....Allen Meacham, Coconino, 1983

PATS (GAME)

12.....Alex Shores, Page, 1974 (jr)
 9.....Cowen Hamblin, Round Valley, 1973
 9.....Alex Shores, Page, 1974 (jr)
 8.....Alex Shores, Page, 1974 (jr)
 8.....Alex Shores, Page, 1974 (jr)

PATS (SEASON)

50.....Alex Shores, Page, 1974 (jr)
 44.....Kenny Walker, Round Valley, 1980
 42.....Dawson Gofourth, Flagstaff, 1985
 41.....Brian Rau, Flagstaff, 1988 (so)

CONSECUTIVE PATS

45.....Dawson Gofourth, Flagstaff, 1984-85

PATS (CAREER)

91.....Eddie Hamblin, Round Valley, 1979-81
 88.....Herik Mandel, Coconino, 1980-82
 66.....Blaine Crowther, Snowflake, ACTIVE!
 65.....Bob McGeary, Lake Havasu, 1972-74
 63.....Scott Ross, Coconino, 1974-76
 63.....Faren Mandel, Flagstaff, 1982-83

LONGEST PUNT

90.....J.T. Ellsworth, Snowflake, 1985 (jr)
 89.....Dom DeMark, Prescott, 1991
 87.....Don Ohnstead, Snowflake, 1949
 80.....Lee Daniels, Kingman, 1943
 78.....Jack Miller, Flagstaff, 1960
 78.....David Kiepke, Camp Verde, 1990

PUNTING AVERAGE (SEASON)

52.0.....J.T. Ellsworth, Snowflake, 1985 (jr)
 49.3.....Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1987
 46.8.....Gary Williams, Blue Ridge, 1974
 46.4.....Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1986 (jr)
 46.3.....David Kiepke, Camp Verde, 1990
 44.7.....Jose Pombo, Flagstaff, 1990

LONGEST FUMBLE RECOVERY (TD)

99.....Ryan Noble, Show Low, 1988
 98.....Mike Hayes, Kingman, 1967
 97.....Mike Baughman, Kingman, 1981

LONGEST PUNT RETURN (TD)

98.....Derald Cox, Flagstaff, 1968
 97.....Charley Jones, Prescott, 1955
 97.....Don Track, Parker, 1968
 96.....James Dugan, Flagstaff, 1962
 96.....Andrew Porter, Flagstaff, 1985

TOUCHDOWNS-PUNT RETURNS (GAME)

3.....Paul Russell, Flagstaff, 1934

LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN (TD)

105.....George Krekelberg, Camp Verde, 1988
 100.....Brian Robinson, Kingman, 1983
 99.....Kelly LeSueur, Round Valley, 1975 (jr)
 99.....Tony Squieri, Lake Havasu, 1981
 99.....Myran Hansen, Coconino, 1986 (jr)
 98.....Derald Cox, Flagstaff, 1968 (jr)
 98.....Brett Brewer, Snowflake, 1991 (jr)



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Let's Get a Grip On It



Cardinals' receiver Ernie Jones (82) can't seem to handle this pass in third quarter of 27-21 loss to San Diego. Since their arrival in Phoenix, mistakes have taken a big toll on the 'Cards. But last spring's draft was an A-plus (Dave Cruz photo).

By Gary Rausch Tribune Sports

No National Football League team ever experienced a bad draft - just ask them.

However, outsiders haven't always been kind to Phoenix following the league's annual talent roundup. But critics were crowing a new song last spring.

"Their best draft in over a decade," said Joel Buchsbaum, draft analyst for *Pro Football Weekly*. "It was night and day between what used to go on. They made all the right moves."

What impressed Buchsbaum most was the manner in which they traded up with the New York Jets to get running back Garrison Hearst, and traded down with San Francisco to acquire offensive tackle Ernest Dye.

"They got the guys they wanted without overpaying," Buchsbaum said. "There was talk they'd give up (first-round picks) and panic because they had to have Hearst. They saw through the smokescreens and made the swaps at a very reasonable cost to them."

"With receiver Gary Clark, strong safety Chuck Cecil and quarterback Steve Beuerlein signed as free agents, Phoenix

can celebrate," added *USA Today*.

The *Sporting News* labeled the Cardinals "the star of the draft. Phoenix has taken magnificent strides toward curing its offensive woes."

The *Dallas Morning News* awarded the Cardinals the highest grade in this year's draft, an A-plus. There were numerous congratulatory telephone calls to the Cardinals complex from NFL head coaches, general managers and personnel directors.

"Of course you feel good about it," said Phoenix general manager Larry Wilson. "The key to any draft is getting that first selection. I'm sure that was a big factor. When you get the top player in the whole draft, it ought to be a pretty good draft."

Hearst provides an uncommon threat, but his efforts in future seasons likely would be minimized without the presence of Dye and Ben Coleman, the club's other offensive tackle acquisition. And club officials can't contain themselves over getting running back Ron Moore in the fourth round.

"When you can get four of the top 32 (rated picks), that's a pretty good strike," said head coach Joe Bugel.

The game plan was to come away with one great runner, an offensive tackle and a

defensive lineman, or a great running back and two offensive linemen with the first three picks.

The selection of Moore, a vaunted back from tiny Pittsburg State in Kansas, could be mildly faulted. At the juncture, a pass rushing specialist was the call. But the grades between Moore and the best available defensive linemen were too great, according to Wilson.

"I think the ones we felt that really could help us were gone and Moore was so head and shoulders above everything else at that time, you just couldn't make that reach," he said.

With Johnny Johnson traded away, the Cardinals believed they needed another workhorse back in case Hearst goes lame. They pointed to Moore's production, lack of intimidation by big-time players in post-season all-star games, and kick-returning skills.

Through the draft and free agency, Phoenix improved its passing game, running game and offensive line. "I think we improved our offensive situation pretty dramatically," Wilson said.

The defense lost safety Tim McDonald to free agency, but gained defensive backs Cecil and John Booty.



With young speedsters like Edgar Salano (24) in the backfield, the Williams Vikings will be tough for years. (Arizona Daily Sun photo)

Williams Top-Rated 8-Man Club

WILLIAMS

The main flight was smooth. It was the landing that was rough. Seven weeks into the season, Williams was 6-1 going into a last regular season game with Fredonia. With four minutes to go, the score was 38-38. Four minutes later, Fredonia was on top, 50-38.

The outcome forced a three-way playoff for two state bids, with the Vikings dropping 22-14 and 28-22 games to Mogollon and Fredonia, respectively. With 21 letter winners back, Williams might not need a playoff series to advance this time.

Coach Rick Shipley returns his quarterback, both running backs, and stellar lineman Paco Zabaca, a 5-9, 210-pound senior. Junior Jeff Dent (6-1, 195) is the field general. With 4.9 speed he doubles at defensive end. Young Edgar Salano (6-0, 170), just a sophomore, is the other back. With 4.7

speed he's the quickest Viking in camp.

Senior Mike Hutchins (5-10, 165) is also a two-way back. Classmate Torsten Palm (6-4, 200) is the club's biggest starter. Junior defensive back Andy Anderson (6-0, 165) is the team's backup QB. Both he and Dent have two good receivers to throw to with Lawrence Aguilar (5-11, 165) and Sam Davis (6-0, 170) in the lineup.

Since Shipley took over four years ago, the Vikings have won 74% of their games, including a state co-championship in 1989, a 22-22 tie with Scottsdale Christian.

MAYER

The Wildcats should have another solid team, with two starting running backs, an offensive guard, linebacker, safety, nose guard and defensive end returning. All seven started on Vince

Cahill's 8-2 club which bowed out in the semis. Sixteen lettermen return.

"We have good talent at quarterback and receiver, but limited experience," says Cahill, who has won 78% of his games at the Mayer school. "Our ability to throw well made our offense versatile. Our defense was also quite steady."

The Wildcats averaged 41.8 points per game, and with junior halfback Paul Hines (6-0, 175) in the lineup, Mayer has a scoring weapon for two more years. As a sophomore he rushed 118 times for 730 yards (6.2) and scored 17 touchdowns; 112 points. He even completed 13 of 21 passes (62%) for 201 yards. He caught 24 passes for 450 yards. Altogether, he racked up 1,549 total yards rushing, passing, receiving, and on kick returns.

Another Cat with all-state potential is junior LB Clay Kelton (5-10, 190), who is also the team's center. The QB

situation could be resolved by sophomore Jason Kelly, who was injured most of last year but looked good when healthy. Highly successful in both basketball and baseball, he could do well in the fall.

Donald Oen (5-9, 160) joins Hines and Kelly in the backfield. With 4.7 speed, Chris Pomichter (6-2, 175) is both a capable receiver and safety. Up front, lots of experience resides in the form of Nathan Metcalf (6-1, 225), Rick Romohr (6-3, 190), Mike Gutierrez (6-1, 195) and Johnny Reza (5-9, 160). Romohr and Gutierrez are juniors.

If a problem arises at quarterback, watch for Hines to step in. He started at that position against Fredonia (first game) and Orme. Also, junior Aaron Dufty could compete for the job. He's a good athlete (state high jump champ) who hasn't been out for football, yet.

Other tracksters who may help are hurdler/pole vaulter Ryan Boden, sprinter/hurdler Josh Caldwell and hurdler Doug Bennett.

MOGOLLON

It was a year of "firsts" in Heber, where the Mustangs won their first conference championship, first playoff victory, and first trip to the 8-man semis, where they finished a 7-3 campaign one game short of the finals.

"We lost some key players to graduation," says first-year coach Tim Slade. "We'll have a lot of juniors starting. But we look to be a contender."

Most of the juniors played on a near-perfect 8-1 JV squad, but it will be these three seniors who will need to lead the way: WR/DB Damon Porter (5-9, 150), LB/FB Darren Beafeaux (5-10, 170), and OL/DE John Mollet (5-10, 170). With 4.8 speed, Porter is the fastest, and he and Beafeaux have all-state potential.

The junior class has several players to watch, especially WR/DB Mitchell Reidhead (5-7, 140) and OL/DL Randy Tenney (5-10, 180). Defensive lineman Matt Owens (6-3, 215) is the biggest sophomore in camp. He will start.

Since playing its first varsity game in 1989, Mogollon has been consistently over .500, with an 8-3 finish in 1990 the best. It's keeping the same head coach which hasn't been consistent.

1993 8-Man Poll

1. Williams Vikings
2. Mayer Wildcats
3. Mogollon Mustangs
4. Fredonia Lynx
5. Orme Warriors
6. Salome Frogs
7. Bagdad Sultans
8. Seligman Antelopes

Slade is the third.

ORME

A young, small squad spelled a 3-5 campaign at The Orme School, where veteran head coach Bob Miller enters his 17th campaign. The Warriors are regrouping after the school almost dropped the sport in 1990. "It's getting better," says Miller, 123-90-8 during his career. "We'll have more experience and speed."

Solid programs rely on seniors, so this year fans at Orme look to quarterback Ian Stine (5-9, 150), center Juan Bravo (5-9, 170) and guard Kyle Washburn (5-10, 183) for leadership roles.

The junior class will supply running back Alvin Saenz (5-9, 185), guard Steve Gross (5-8, 145) and receivers Scott Roberts (6-3, 170) and Eric Woodard (5-10, 185), good targets for QB Stine. Sophomore Bernard Rock (5-9, 150) is a speedy wideout.

Even for Class 1A schools, the Warriors are small. And each starter will have to go both ways, since depth is a problem. Miller's forces improved from 0-9 in 1989, to 6-3-1 in '91. However, Orme's best season under Miller was 1983, when Orme went 9-0 playing an independent schedule.

SALOME

One thing coaches in 8-man fear more than any other class is injuries. Not that coaches everywhere don't worry, but it hurts most in the 1A ranks, because of a lack of numbers. Last fall, the injury bug took a big bite out of Salome's season. Twelve (12!) major injuries decimated the Frogs.

"We came up short at the end due

to injuries and a lack of experienced replacements," says Dan Wolfe, who still wonders how his club won three games. "We will be real tough on the line, but inexperienced in both backfields."

Although the coaching staff is counting on newcomers to help the program, several vets are going to make or break the season, starting with the Clark brothers, Marshall and Jeff. Just a junior, Marshall (5-10, 204) doubles at OG/DE and might be one of the best in the 8-man wars. Senior Jeff (5-10, 180) is the team's center and nose guard. Frog fans think these two can start on any 8-man club in the state. They're probably right.

Underclassmen start at key positions, including QB, where junior Ruben Beltran (5-9, 145), with 4.8 speed, will call the signals. He also plays in the secondary, as almost every one of the 10 returning letter winners will go both ways. Sophomore guard Shawn Leach (5-10, 185) doubles at linebacker.

The hard-luck town hasn't had a winning football team since 1985, when the Frogs finished 7-2. In 1980, a Richard Imhoff-coached club went undefeated (11-0) and blitzed Maricopa 46-13 in the 8-man title game.

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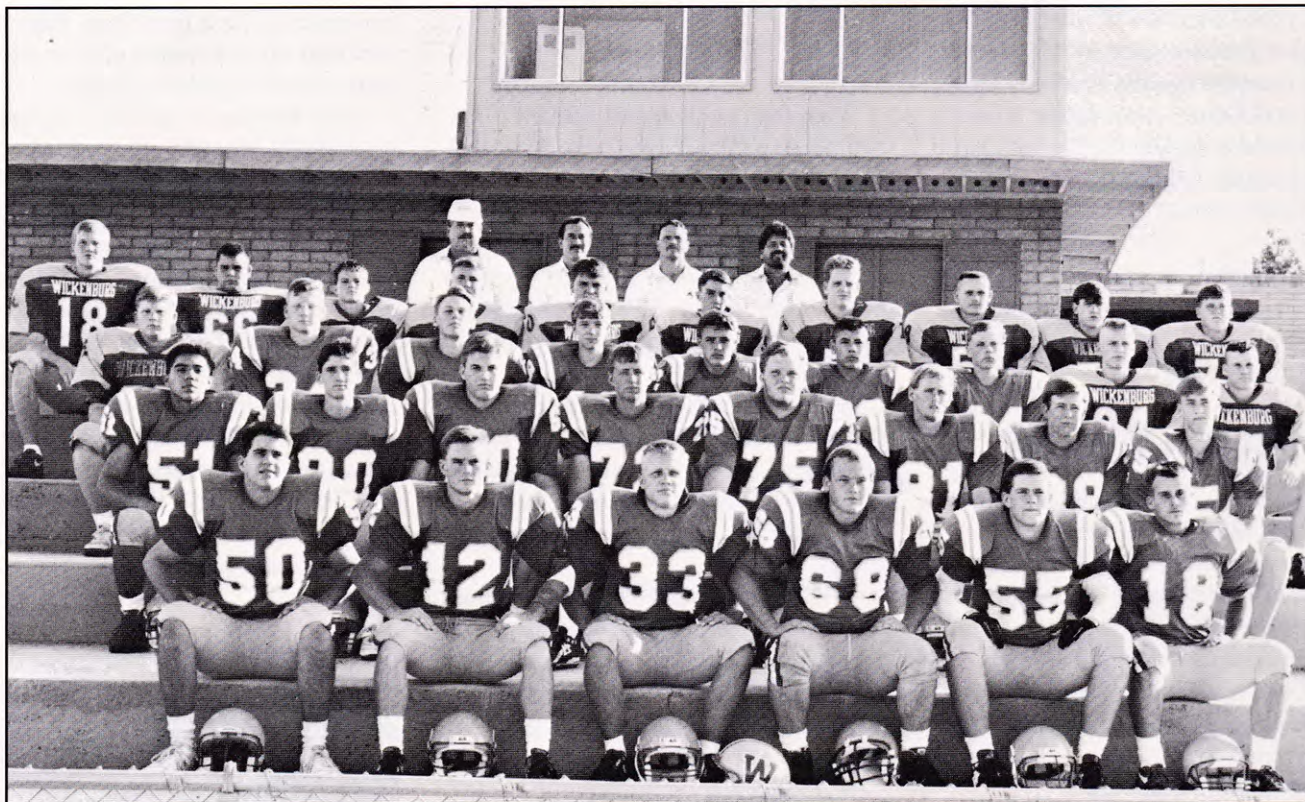
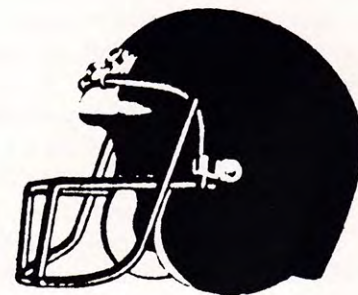
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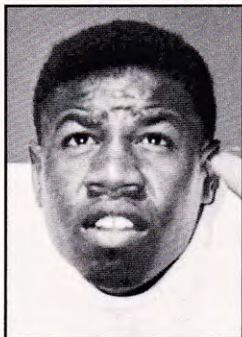
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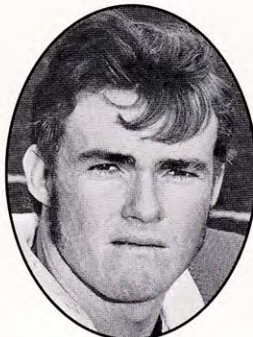
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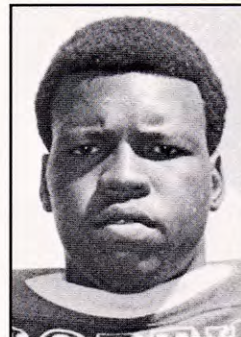
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Yuma



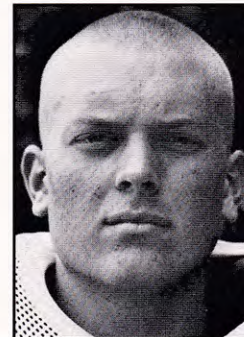
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Phoenix Union



Brian Murray
Salpointe



Glen Gresham
Phoenix Union



John Tait
McClintock

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL LINEMAN

1992 John Tait, Tempe McClintock (OT)
1991 Willie Walker, Tucson Desert View (DL)
1990 Grady Stretz, Tempe McClintock (DL)
1989 Mike Ciasca, Tucson Sahuaro (OT)
1988 Eric Ipock, Peoria (OT)
1987 Richard Griffith, Tucson Catalina (DL)
1986 Tim Landers, Round Valley (DT)
1985 Gary Pay, Glendale Apollo (OT)
1984 Vincent Byrd, Eloy Santa Cruz (DT)
1983 Steve Spurling, Scottsdale Horizon (C)
1982 Richard Bear, Moon Valley (DT)
1981 Frank Rudolph, Scottsdale Coronado (DL)
1980 Tom Briebl, Phoenix Gerard (T)
1979 Dave Wood, Phoenix Washington (DL)
1978 Doug Kellermeyer, Scottsdale Coronado (DL)
1977 Marty Van Gorder, Chandler (C)
1976 Jack Housely, Phoenix Maryvale (DL)
1975 Phil Hedrick, Phoenix Maryvale (T)
1974 Jimmy Moore, Tempe Marcos de Niza (DL)
1973 Jon Abbott, Phoenix Central (T)
1972 Keith Sobraske, Scottsdale Coronado (T)
1971 Mike Dawson, Tucson (T)
1970 Glen Gresham, Phoenix Union (OT)
1969 Roger Kronberg, Tempe (OT)
1968 Fernie Mendoza, Tucson Salpointe (T)
1967 Ken Hatcher, Mesa (C)
1966 Bill Dawson, Tucson (T)
1965 Bill Dawson, Tucson (T) jr.
1964 Richard Griffin, Mesa Westwood (OT)

1963 Curley Culp, Yuma (MG)
1962 (TIE) Gary Swift, Scottsdale Arcadia (T)
..... Bob Bertelsen, Scottsdale Arcadia (T)
1961 Allen Thorn, Phoenix St. Mary's (C)
1960 Ted Lawrence, South Mountain (G)
1959 Dennis Couse, Tucson (T)
1958 Stacey Ostland, South Mountain (C)
1957 Wayne Magnusson, Phoenix West (G)
1956 John Vucichevich, Miami (C)
1955 Sumner Smith, Phoenix Union (T)
1954 Al Carr, Phoenix Union (G)
1953 Dick Nordmeyer, Tucson (DT)
1952 Guy Barrickman, Tucson (T)
1951 Robert Green, Phoenix Carver (T) jr.
1950 Glenn Bowers, Mesa (G)
1949 Phil Russell, Phoenix St. Mary's (T)
1948 Roy Alba, Phoenix Union (G)
1947 Bill Workman, Mesa (C)
1946 Bill Penny, Yuma (T)
1945 Joe Kelley, Tucson (T)
1944 Bill Yeoman, Glendale (C)
1943 Bill Yeoman, Glendale (C) jr.

BRIAN MURRAY, a 1972 Salpointe High grad, was a three-year starter at Arizona, and projected as a high NFL draft pick, but was killed in a fall at Redington Pass, between the Catalina and Rincon mountains, in April 1977.

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